

## Arafat continues Bucharest talks

BUCHAREST (AP) — PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, who conferred on Saturday with President and Communist Party chief Nicolae Ceausescu, Sunday held a second meeting with the Romanian leader, the state-run Agerpres news agency reported. It said Mr. Arafat set forth the Palestine Liberation Organisation's position on the Middle East situation, with emphasis on the PLO's actions "for finding a political solution to the complex problems in that area." Agerpres quoted at length Mr. Ceausescu as reiterating Romania's stance which calls for the right of self-determination and nationhood for the Palestinians and the guaranteed integrity and sovereignty of all states in the area, including Israel. Mr. Ceausescu repeated his call for an international conference, to be held under U.N. auspices, towards achieving a peaceful Middle East settlement.

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## Obeid chairs talks on Aqaba-Qaboos link

AMMAN (J.T.) — A special committee supervising the land-sea route linking Aqaba with Qaboos port in Nweibeb in Sinai held a meeting in Amman on Sunday under the chairmanship of Minister of Transport Farhi Obeid. A general review of operations along the Aqaba-Qaboos route was made at the meeting and it was announced that the route has fulfilled its strategic, national, political, economic and social objectives as set by His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, according to a statement issued at the end of the meeting. The committee, the statement said, studied facilities which could be offered to Muslim pilgrims going to Mecca to perform annual pilgrimage.

## Iraqi official arrives in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — Under-Secretary of the Iraqi Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Soheil Mohammad, Saleh arrived here Sunday on a visit to Jordan expected to last several days. Mr. Saleh is expected to hold talks with officials of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development on preparations for holding an international conference in Baghdad on March 25 on ways to end the Iran-Iraq war. The Iraqi official was greeted on arrival by Jordanian officials.

## Central Bank deputy chief explains listing of instructions

AMMAN (Petra) — Central Bank Deputy Governor, Maher Shukri said on Sunday that listing daily instructions for banks and international companies on the dollar prices, which the bank has been providing since the beginning of this month, was necessitated by developments in the world financial markets, the improvement of international means of communications and the increase of the volume of transactions. Speaking at a seminar entitled "The Amendments to Regulation: Dealing with Transactions of Foreign Currencies," Mr. Shukri said that the new amendments, which included a daily list of instructions on conditions pertaining to the selling and buying of foreign currencies from banks and international companies, aimed at maintaining monetary and economic stability in the country.

## Mubarak, U.S. senator discuss aid

CAIRO (AP) — The chairman of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee met on Sunday with President Hosni Mubarak and discussed U.S. aid to Egypt and the situation in the Middle East. Following the one-hour meeting, Senator Mark Hatfield, Republican, Oregon, spoke to reporters. "Yes, the question of aid was discussed and that includes continuing economic development here and kinds of aid necessary to keep Egypt as a major defence for freedom and peace in the Middle East," Mr. Hatfield said.

# Rifai visits Syria, returns after talks with Assad, Kasm

By Lamis K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

PRIME MINISTER Zaid Rifai made a one-day visit to Damascus on Sunday and held talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on recent developments in the area and bilateral relations.

The Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported that Mr. Assad hosted a working lunch for Mr. Rifai and said that the two sides discussed "the situation in the Middle East and between the two countries."

The meeting between the prime minister and the Syrian president was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Al Kasm and Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara'a from the Syrian side and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasbi on the Jordanian side.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Rifai held talks with Mr. Kasm but no details were available on the contents of the meeting.

Later in the evening both Mr. Rifai and Mr. Qasbi flew back to Amman where they were greeted by cabinet members.

Mr. Rifai's visit to Syria was the third since last September when an Arab League reconciliation committee succeeded in clearing the atmosphere between the two countries. In October both Mr. Rifai and his Syrian counterpart signed a three-point political agreement in Riyadh in which they rejected separate and unilateral peace settlements with Israel and reiterated commitment to all Arab

summit resolutions and to the convening of an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations in which the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties involved in the conflict participate.

His Majesty King Hussein had sealed the agreement in a historical visit he made to Damascus during the last week of December.

No statement was issued following the King's visit then but Jordanian officials described the Jordanian-Syrian summit as "very successful."

Mr. Assad was expected to return the King's visit but unconfirmed reports from Amman and Damascus said that visit could be delayed due to Syria's involvement in settling the situation in Lebanon and the Israeli interception of a Libyan plane carrying Syrian officials last week.

Jordanian officials had said that the main point of agreement with Syria remained the international conference, particularly after Syria agreed on the need for all five permanent Security Council members to participate for the conference to be a success.

Syria had been advocating an

international conference co-chaired by the United States and the Soviet Union, but, according to Jordanian officials, Damascus "came to see eye-to-eye with Jordan on the importance of including all five permanent Security Council members in order to prevent a possible deal between the two superpowers at our expense."

But well-informed sources said then that the Syrian-Jordanian reconciliation had not resolved all of the differences between the two sides.

Jordan and Syria differ over Syrian support of Iran against Iraq in the five-year-old Gulf war and Jordan's ties with Egypt and the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) under Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Rifai's visit to Syria followed two weeks of Jordanian-Palestinian talks and other contacts which failed to reach any breakthrough regarding a formula in which the PLO could accept United Nations Resolutions 242 and 338.

The U.S. had been demanding that the PLO accept the two resolutions, which recognise Israel, on their own, express readiness to negotiate with the government of Israel and renounce armed struggle against Israel once the negotiations start, as preconditions for direct contacts with the American administration and to join the peace process.

But despite the numerous formulas which were drafted by the Americans and the Palestinians during the last two weeks, both

## Fighting erupts anew around Bikfaya, along 'green line'

BEIRUT (R) — Fresh fighting in Beirut and around Lebanese President Amin Gemayel's hometown killed at least seven people and wounded several others, radio stations said Sunday.

At least seven pro-Syrian militiamen were killed when army units defending Mr. Gemayel's mountain stronghold of Bikfaya thwarted an attack on Saturday, a rightist radio said.

In Beirut, radios said sniper fire engulfed the "green line" battlefront again on Sunday, briefly closing all three crossings between the mainly Muslim western and predominantly Christian eastern sectors.

A four-year-old boy and a woman were wounded on Saturday when gunfire erupted along the dividing line, which snakes about seven kilometres through the embattled city.

Fighting closed the crossings on Thursday — the first time in six months that all links between eastern and western enclaves were simultaneously cut.

In South Lebanon, security sources said Israel's militia allies, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), shelled two villages on Sunday, but no casualties were reported.

Mr. Gemayel told U.S., British and French ambassadors on Friday that Israel was set on annexing Lebanese territory. Israel on Sunday denied the charge (See story below).

The SLA and some 1,000 Israeli troops and agents already control a border security zone in the south and Beirut newspapers have said Israel is fencing off more land.

Mr. Gemayel is under pressure to resign from both Christian and Muslim opponents blaming him for the collapse last month of a

Syrian-mediated agreement to end civil war.

The 44-year-old Maronite Christian president has said he will not quit and pro-Syrian militias angered by his refusal to endorse the pact are fighting sporadic battles with army units around Bikfaya.

But independent Maronite politician Auguste Bakhor told the English-language weekly Monday Morning he thought an all-out military showdown was unlikely.

"The atmosphere is encouraging and I do not think the factions will respond to that by beating war drums," he said.

Mr. Bakhor is spokesman for six Maronite parliamentarians trying to mend fences with Syrian leaders angered by the collapse of the accord, which would have given Lebanon's majority Muslims a greater share of power.

AUB doctors defy gunmen, page 2

## Ismail died of injuries in Aden battles, DFLP says

DAMASCUS (R) — The former president of South Yemen, Abdul Fattah Ismail, died from wounds received at the start of last month's coup, a Palestinian group close to the Aden government said on Sunday.

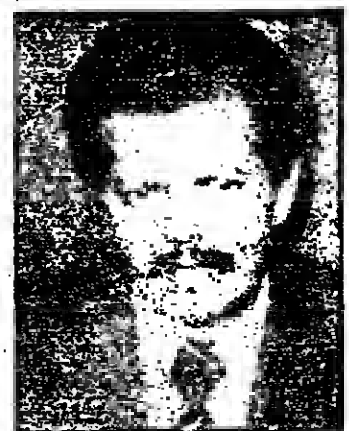
The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) said in a statement that Mr. Ismail died on Jan. 13, the same day fighting erupted in Aden in a power struggle between rival factions.

Other Palestinian sources told Reuters Mr. Ismail had been rushed that day to a Soviet medical ship, where he died from gunshot wounds received in an attack by supporters of then-President Ali Nasser Mohammad just before the fighting began.

Mr. Mohammad was later ousted after 12 days of bitter fighting and the South Yemeni parliament on Saturday elected his successor, Haider, Abu Bakar Al Attas.

The DFLP said it confirmed Mr. Ismail's death during talks in Aden Saturday night between DFLP leader Nayef Hawatmeh and the new South Yemeni leadership.

Mr. Ismail, 47, was close as-



Abdul Fattah Ismail

ociate of Mr. Mohammad during Aden's guerrilla war for independence from Britain in the 1960s and the two men shared top-level power after the June, 1978, ouster and execution of President Rubayi Ali.

In October 1979 Mr. Ismail was elected president and Mr. Mohammad became prime minister.

Aden holds 'mercenaries', page 2

## Ex-leader of Tawheed shot dead in Tripoli

BEIRUT (R) — A fundamentalist Muslim leader was shot dead when his car was ambushed in the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli on Sunday, security sources said.

They said Khalil Akkawi, also known as Abu Arabi, was riddled with about 50 machine-gun bullets and one of his sides was seriously wounded in the attack by unidentified gunmen.

The dead man was a fundamentalist Sunni Muslim who controlled Bab Tebbanah, a key district of Lebanon's second largest city.

Tripoli was the scene of heavy fighting between the fundamentalist Islamic Unification Movement (Tawheed) and pro-Syrian militias last September.

The battles, in which at least 300 people were killed, ended Tawheed's two-year dominance of the town and culminated in a ceasefire supervised by Syrian troops and officials.



RARE PHOTO: In the photograph above, which is published for the first time in Jordan, Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali, great grandfather of His Majesty King Hussein, is seen leaving an Armenian church in Nicosia, Cyprus, while he was spending his seven years of exile on the island. Sharif Hussein visited the Armenian church and donated to it 50 dinars in gold in recognition of his good relations with the Armenian community whose members he protected and allowed to take up residence as free non-Muslim citizens, while he was Sharif of Mecca. Sharif Hussein, who led the Great Arab Revolt against the Ottoman Empire in 1916, was exiled to Cyprus by the British in 1925 over their well-known dispute on the question of Palestine. He returned to Amman from his exile a very ill man in 1931 and died in the same year. Sharif Hussein is buried at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque to whose renovation he donated 25,000 dinars in gold in 1925 (Photograph supplied by Capt. (Ret.) Arslan Ramadan who is the author of the book Amman: Yesterday and Today).

## Trouble hits Philippines vote counting

MANILA (R) — Counting in the Philippine presidential election ran into trouble on Sunday when nearly 30 women fled the state-run commission on elections' data centre amid growing confusion over who was winning.

Earlier, a senior commission official was jeered and booed at the same centre when he produced figures, compiled by himself, saying President Ferdinand Marcos had moved into a 451,000 vote lead over opposition leader Corason Aquino.

The flight of 28 young women, most of them in tears, and two men had an immediate impact on government television and the official Philippine News Agency (PNA).

The steady stream of unofficial returns that had flowed almost since polling ended on Friday came to a halt without explanation.

The walkout was the latest bizarre twist in an election rocked by charges of bribery, ballot rigging and intimidation even before Filipinos voted whether to put Mr. Marcos, 68, back in power for six more years.

The women worked in the proof reading section of the centre which compared data fed into a computer with raw returns.

One of them told reporters the results that finally emerged were not the same as the information she had checked and compared with the originals.

Mr. Marcos has refused to yield, insisting he will win by up to 2.2

million votes. But Mrs. Aquino said in a statement she hoped the count would be finished on Sunday "so that the arrangements for the transfer of power can begin tomorrow."

One girl left the data centre clutching a box of computer discs. Many of her companions had tears streaming down their faces and were visibly frightened as they were hustled away surrounded by a mob of reporters and television camera crews.

"It appeared to be a well-coordinated event," said U.S. television correspondent Jim Laurie (Continued on page 3)

Marcos supporters assail foreign press, page 8

## Israel concedes fencing off parts of South Lebanon

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel conceded on Sunday that it had fenced off parts of South Lebanon but denied Lebanese charges that it had annexed the areas.

The reaction came in response to accusations on Friday by Lebanese President Amin Gemayel that Israel had annexed 20 kilometres of Lebanese territory near its border with Israel by building a fence around the area and building military roads there.

Mr. Gemayel demanded action by the United Nations Security Council to force Israel to withdraw.

Israel "has not annexed any

part of South Lebanon or the security zone, nor do we have any intention of annexing any part of South Lebanon," said a military spokesman.

She added that "since we are concerned with the security situation we are doing everything we can to prevent hostile activities" in South Lebanon.

Israel says it pulled most of its troops out of Lebanon in June after a three-year presence. But it maintains some 1,000 soldiers to prop up the South Lebanon Army (SLA), a predominantly Lebanese militia charged with controls an Israeli-designated "security" zone.

## Iraqi officials in Riyadh for oil and political talks

RIYADH (AP) — Two senior Iraqi officials arrived unexpectedly on Sunday for oil and political cooperation talks with Saudi Arabian leaders, government sources here reported.

They said Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Tariq and Deputy Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council Ezzat Ibrahim were to hold sessions with Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan, Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani, and possibly have an audience with King Fahd.

The sources said without elaborating that the talks were to focus on the latest adverse developments in world oil markets.

Sheikh Yamani on Saturday ended brief discussions here with his Mexican and Venezuelan counterparts on means of restoring

order to a glutted world market. Knowledgeable sources said that Sheikh Yamani made it clear to the two ministers that Saudi Arabia was no longer willing to pursue the role of swing producer — that depressed its production to allow other OPEC members to produce more — for the organisation.

Sheikh Yamani, they said, told the ministers that the kingdom undertook "lots of sacrifices and is no longer prepared to exert any more" for the sake of the OPEC.

He insisted that the only means to remedy the price deterioration rests in OPEC members abiding by their production quotas and non-OPEC members averting trying to "outbid" the organisation. Latin American debtor nations to discuss oil crisis, page 7

## Queen gives birth to Princess Raya

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor on Sunday gave birth to a baby girl, the Royal Court announced. The new-born princess, who was named Raya, was born at 8.18 p.m., the announcement said. The Royal Court announcement congratulated Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor on the birth of Princess Raya, their second daughter.

## Libya reaffirms intention to intercept Israeli planes

TRIPOLI (R) — Libya on Sunday reaffirmed its intention of intercepting Israeli civilian aircraft as its air force and navy entered a second day of manoeuvres with live ammunition.

Based on the right of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to take all appropriate measures to defend its security and sovereignty and on the basis of the rules of reciprocity, it declares its intention to continue intercepting Israeli planes, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"Anyone who tries to prevent it doing so will be resisted with all means at its disposal," the statement added.

The statement, published in the newspaper Al Fajr Al Jedid, (New Dawn), attacked the United States for using its veto to block a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning last week's hijacking of a Libyan passenger aircraft by Israeli jets and said the Security Council had shown it was "incapable of carrying out its duties in protecting international peace."

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi first announced on Friday that he had ordered the Libyan air force to intercept all Israeli civilian aircraft over the Med-

iterranean in a search for "Israeli terrorists wanted by Libyan courts."

Tripoli Radio said Libyan jets on Saturday flew to "the limit of international airspace linking Italy and Greece in search of enemy Israeli aircraft."

Official media have said the navy and air defence exercises in the Tripoli area will last until Feb. 16 (See page 2).

No reason was given for the war games, which diplomats said were unusual, but they coincide with reports from Washington that two U.S. aircraft carriers, Saratoga and Coral Sea, were heading back towards the Gulf of Sirte, over which Libya claims territorial rights.

U.S. navy planes downed two Libyan jets over Sirte in 1981. Units of the U.S. Sixth Fleet, including the two carriers, held exercises off the Libyan coast last month but no incidents were reported.

Sunday's Foreign Ministry statement described the return of the U.S. warships as "provocative and in defiance of all international charters and laws."

(Continued on page 3)

## Conservative leaders assail Thatcher over Westland

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, weakened by the Westland affair, faced a hail of criticism this weekend from senior Conservatives in and out of her cabinet.

Leading party figures, including her potential successors, seized the opportunity of the government's disarray to press for major changes both in her style and her economic policies.

One newspaper which has almost unvaryingly supported her, the Mail, on Sunday suggested the debacle over the helicopter firm Westland had damaged her so severely she should resign.

The time has come for Mrs.

Thatcher to very seriously consider her position," the paper said. "It is difficult indeed to see for how long she can now continue in office."

Mrs. Thatcher has lost two senior ministers in a month in what began as a trifling dispute over rival U.S. and European rescue bids for the small Westland firm and eventually split the cabinet.

Energy Secretary Peter Walker openly called for a "radical rethinking" of his government's policies in a weekend speech to young Conservatives in Blackpool, northwest England.

(Continued on page 3)

## NASA said to have been warned of shuttle danger

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The U.S. space agency had been warned that rocket seals like those in use on the Challenger when it exploded could cause a catastrophic accident, according to the New York Times.

Quoting documents from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) files, the newspaper said engineers were concerned that the seals on the space shuttle's solid-fuel booster rockets might leak.

The space agency was warned last year that such leaks would allow hot gases and flames to escape through the side of the rocket instead of down an exhaust nozzle, possibly causing an explosion, the New York Times said.

The newspaper said the seals were a key issue at Thursday's first meeting of the presidential com-

mission investigating the explosion, in which seven crew members died.

The front-page report said one NASA analyst warned in an internal memorandum last July that flight safety was "being compromised by potential failure of the seals." He added "failure during launch would certainly be catastrophic."

The boosters are made of four large cylindrical segments that are bolted together.

The Atlanta Journal and the Atlanta Constitution in Sunday editions reported that the boosters' manufacturer, Morton Thiokol Inc., told NASA during the Challenger's countdown that the cold weather might have stiffened parts called "O-rings," which are the major part of the seals.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Security director back from Morocco

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department Director Lieutenant General Abdul Hadi Al Majali and his assistant for operations and planning Major General Issa Al Omari returned to Amman Saturday after taking part in the conference of Arab interior ministers held in Morocco. The Jordanian delegation to the conference was headed by Interior Minister Hassan Al Kayed.

## PSD warns drivers about road conditions

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Sunday warned drivers to take great care on certain roads in the Kingdom due to snowfall and ice. Shobak and Wadi Musa roads in the southern region were reported to be completely closed to traffic and other roads in Salt and Tafleh were dangerous due to heavy fog.

## Indian team reviews trade exchange

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour Sunday met the visiting joint secretary of the Indian Ministry of Commerce J.N. Renjen and the accompanying delegation. The two sides discussed bilateral relations between Jordan and India and ways of further bolstering and developing these relations. Also on Sunday Ministry of Industry and Trade Under-Secretary Mohammad Al Saqqaf and the Indian delegation reviewed means of expanding trade exchange between the two countries. Mr. Renjen also met with officials at the potash, phosphate and fertilizer companies and reviewed trade exchange between Jordan and India.

## Mayor of Muscat expected today

AMMAN (Petra) — The mayor of Muscat is due here Monday on a visit to Jordan expected to last several days. The mayor, Sheikh Ahmad bin Sultan Al Housni, will hold talks with Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh and other officials on ways of bolstering cooperation between Muscat and Amman. During the visit, the two sides are expected to sign an agreement on bilateral cooperation in municipal affairs. Sheikh Al Housni, who is accompanied by an official delegation, will be taken on a tour of archaeological sites in Jordan.

## British aviation team due this week

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the British civil aviation authority is due here at the end of the week on a visit to Jordan expected to last several days. During the visit, the delegation is expected to hold meetings with Mr. Khaled Mohammad Ali, the director general of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), and other officials from Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline. The talks will centre on Alia's request to increase its passenger transport capacity from Amman to London and vice versa during the coming summer.

## Nsour meets UNDP representatives

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour Sunday met with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) resident representative in Jordan Adnan Ra'ouf and the UNDP director for Arab countries. The meeting discussed UNDP assistance to Jordan.

## Ramtha office issues 16 work permits

RAMTHA (Petra) — The Ramtha Labour and Social Development Office last month issued 16 work permits to non-Jordanian workers of different nationalities. The office's director, Mr. Mohammad Al Barakat, said that these workers are employed in industry, transport and other services in Ramtha region. The director said that his office registered 46 Jordanians seeking jobs and found work for 36 of them. Teams from the office, he added, toured 62 organisations and factories in January to make sure that employees are abiding by Labour Ministry regulations.

## People's Army training starts in Ramtha, Jordan Valley

RAMTHA (Petra) — A second batch of People's Army recruits in Ramtha district Sunday started training courses at the centres of Al Turrah, Al Shajara, Al Thuneibeh and Al Buweika. The training courses, opened by the military commander of the region, will last until March 15. Taking part are male and female students of secondary schools in Ramtha district.

In North Shuneh, a meeting was held Sunday under the chairmanship of district governor Qutub Al Majali to discuss final arrangements to start military training for People's Army recruits. Eight centres have been named for carrying out military training. Heads of local councils and government departments attended the meeting.

## Rifai pays brief visit to Syria

(Continued from page 1)

The American administration however, had accepted the idea of an international peace conference and that a formal invitation be sent to the PLO if the organisation accepted the two resolutions. But the Americans and the PLO differ on defining the role of the suggested conference: while the Americans view the conference as a forum of a mediation, the Palestinians are demanding for a conference with binding arbitration powers.

Mr. Arafat left Amman last Friday and Palestinian officials said that talks will continue. Mr. Rifai was expected to have briefed Mr. Assad on the Jordanian-Palestinian talks. Reuter adds from Tel Aviv: Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres says the Middle East peace process is "back to square one" following the "failure" of talks between Jordan and the PLO.

For its part, the American administration insisted that the organisation accept the two resolutions on their own and rejected the PLO's demand for a reciprocal recognition of the Palestinian right to self-determination.

## Libya reaffirms intention

(Continued from page 1)

It said the United States aimed to provide "protection to Israeli jets, proving that America is Israel's ally and Israel is the United States' enemy."

It said the U.S. presence in the Mediterranean was that of an "imperialist" since Libya, with the longest Mediterranean coastline in North Africa, was the nation "principally concerned with pro-



SHARIF ZAID MEETS BRITISH CAPTAIN — Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker (centre) Sunday receives Captain P. Erskine, the commander of the British Navy formation currently visiting Jordan. Attending the meeting were Armed Forces Chief-of-Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Taleb, British Ambassador in Amman Arthur John Coles and the British military attaché in Amman. Later Sunday Mr. Coles hosted a reception at his residence in honour of the commander and members of the British Navy formation currently on board the two destroyers HMS Newcastle and HMS Jupiter. The reception was attended by senior civil and military officials as well as members of the Jordanian-British Society.

## Haj Hassan pays surprise inspection visit to Amman labour, employment office

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan Sunday made a surprise visit to the Amman Employment Office where he was briefed on the progress of work in issuing work permits and ensuring that employers are abiding by Labour Ministry regulations and instructions.

The minister spoke at a meeting with officials and stressed the importance of applying all measures which have been designed to give priority to Jordanians in employment. He said that Jordanians are now seeking clerical, acc-

ountancy and secretarial jobs and that they should have priority over non-Jordanians in getting these jobs.

Official statistics indicate that 18,000 Jordanians who hold community college and tawjihi diplomas are seeking such jobs, but are in competition with non-Jordanians, the minister added. Mr. Haj Hassan expressed hope that unemployed Jordanians will be offered jobs through the employment office in the country, which, he said, have been set up for this purpose.

Mr. Haj Hassan said that min-

istry teams will shortly tour agricultural areas to ensure that farmers employing non-Jordanians are also abiding by the regulations.

The minister praised the dedication of the employment offices' staff and said that they were cooperating with local businesses. He also noted that these offices have issued 4,300 work permits to non-Jordanians since the ministry started applying its new regulations for foreign workers.

The minister was accompanied on the visit by a number of senior labour ministry officials.

## Jordan asks UNESCO to add Petra, Jerash to heritage list

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has requested that the archaeological sites of Jerash and Petra be added to a list of international heritage sites which are cared for by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), according to Dr. Adnan Al Hadidi, the director general of the Antiquities Department.

He was quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper Sunday as saying that the UNESCO assistant director general is expected to arrive in Jordan soon on a week-long visit during which he will tour the country's archaeological sites to examine their antiquities and artefacts which have been unearthed, prior to submitting a report recommending that the Jordanian request be accepted.

Dr. Hadidi also said that the UNESCO official will have the opportunity to examine the department's plans for preserving the archaeological sites of Jerash and Petra. A UNESCO meeting is to be held in June and Jordan's request could be discussed then. Dr. Hadidi added. He continued that UNESCO had earlier responded favourably to Jordan's request that the holy city of Jerusalem be added to the list of international heritage sites.

## Jordan, Iraq open talks on cooperation in air transport

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Iraq Sunday opened talks to promote air transport cooperation between them. The main topic on the agenda is exempting the national airlines of both countries from paying navigation fees for their flights from and to Amman and Baghdad by considering these flights as domestic.

The three-day meeting is co-chaired by Mr. Khaled Mohammad Ali, the director general of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), and Mohammad Fathi Amia, chairman of the board of directors of the Iraqi Civil Aviation Corporation. Representatives from Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, and Iraqi Airways, the national Iraqi carrier, are taking part in the talks.

Both Mr. Ali and Mr. Amin spoke at the outset of the first meeting stressing the need for continuing the present level of cooperation between the two sides and the exchange of expertise to benefit Iraq and Jordan. Both national airlines, they said, operate daily flights between Amman and Baghdad and both cooperate through the Arab Air Cargo Company, a joint Iraqi-Jordanian company, to develop air transport operations between them and with other countries. According to Mr. Ali, the two sides plan to increase the capital of the air cargo company in the near future and to expand its operations.

## Committee ends meeting on Arab labour issues

AMMAN (Petra) — A labour committee set up by the Federation of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture ended a meeting here Sunday with a recommendation calling on all Arab countries to take part in a conference to be held in Baghdad on March 25 which will discuss ways of ending the Gulf war.

The meeting, which was attended by Arab countries and regional organisations including the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO), urged Arab countries and organisations to try to end what they described as inhuman practices by a number of European countries against Arab workers in Europe.

The appeal came in response to a memorandum submitted by Kuwait outlining the bad treatment of Arab workers in European countries in general and in France in particular.

The meeting entrusted the ALO director general to explore measures which could end the ill treatment of workers in Europe and to convey Arab countries' dismay over the issue to the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Also in the statement, the delegates said they discussed cooperation among Arab countries in labour-related affairs and recommended that Arab countries endorse a report by ALO's general director.

## Conferees debate aspects of, approaches to food security

Arab, foreign economists continue discussions on famine, agricultural policies during ATF conference

By Rana Sabbagh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The need for pan-Arab economic planning and integration, for mechanisation, technology and investment in agriculture were the main themes tackled by conferees Sunday during the second day of a three-day conference on "Food Security in the Arab and Third World countries."

"More than 50 Arab and foreign economic experts on Third World affairs have not succeeded in shedding more light on means to achieve pan-Arab food security or how to combat agricultural over-exploitation," according to a leading Arab economist, who requested anonymity. "Rather, conferees have discussed reviews of the problem of food security and have criticised that lack of Arab government commitment to tackle the issue as well as the absence of a regional food security and self-sufficiency plan," he added.

"Absorption by osmosis and reading between the lines have been the dominant characteristics of not only this meeting but almost all the earlier conferences on Arab issues I have attended," said Mr. Issam Al Zaim, an active participant in the conference and assistant executive secretary for Asia at the Third World Economists Association, told the Jordan Times that such meetings usually help decision makers to focus on the crucial subjects under discussion which are later reviewed in private meetings.

The Arab Thought Forum (ATF), which has organised the event, said that Monday's session will touch on the core of the food security problem. "The closing session will witness a change in the course of the seminar's direction after each participant has had the chance to speak out and develop his own impressions and remarks about the problem," Dr. Saad Eddin Ibrahim, the secretary general of the ATF, told the Jordan Times.

Acknowledging requests from participants, Sunday's afternoon discussions took a different angle and conferees became more outspoken and offered their views on how the various problems of food security could be tackled.

Participants discussed food problems in the Third World and several case studies on the work of the Third World Economists Association. The subjects under discussion included famine in Africa, the role of technology in developing agriculture, future prospects and possible strategies to eradicate hunger in the Third World.

Dr. Abdel Sahel Alwan, professor of agricultural economics at Baghdad University, presented a working paper suggesting that

there is a need for economic integration and coordination in the regional context of pan-Arab economic planning in order to avoid the numerous food problems affecting this sector. He noted that the potential for achieving food security is high and that regional variations in crops are a strength which complements that potential. The professor also noted the failure of most states to adhere to decisions taken at the 11th Arab summit in Amman in 1980 and said maybe this was because "Arab leaders were over ambitious in their plans for Arab economic unity."

## Political support

Dr. Mahmoud Duwayri from the University of Jordan emphasised that the agricultural sector needs political support if it is to achieve what is asked of it and this opinion was echoed by a number of other participants. "We should concentrate on the trends which influence change in the present and the future of regional economic planning. Any case study should focus on the actors — who decide on the game — and any study should also address the aspirations of these actors," Mr. Zaim told the participants.

Dr. Issam Hwaish, chairman of the cultural committee of the Iraqi economic society, stressed the need to develop an overall regional strategy to be followed by national plans. Dr. Hwaish's call was backed by a veteran economist, Dr. Yousef Sayegh, who said that there is a need to clarify stages for joint Arab economic approaches and that national concepts should be in harmony with regional concepts.

Dr. Hassan Juma', director general of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD), pointed out various studies which his organisation has conducted in the fields of cereals, sugar, water, dairy products, as well as economic development projects for the occupied West Bank. He also said that more investment should go into the industrial side of agriculture, such as food processing and the fertiliser industry.

Concerning the Arab World's potential for achieving food self-sufficiency, Dr. Juma' believes the potential is there regarding basic

food commodities. He also referred to a United Nations survey on the developing world to the year 2000 which reviewed each area by region and state. He said that the study concluded that the developing world could support double the population if it invested only half as much funds as Europe invests in agriculture.

Mr. Abdul Rahman Shihateh, director of the Cairo-based Agricultural Research Centre (ARC), emphasised the importance of evaluating the success of joint Arab projects and he called for more investment in food industries.

Dr. Yacoub Sulaiman's paper concentrated on the food gap and emphasised that a distinction should be made between apparent self-sufficiency and objective self-sufficiency. Elaborating, Dr. Sulaiman, who is from the economic centre for studies and consulting in Amman, said that assessment of the food gap should be based on production meeting consumption and demand, as consumption is clearly limited by the purchasing power, where as the need is the determining power.

The theory of calculating the difference between food consumption and production could be applicable to industrialised countries but not to the developing world, he concluded.

Mr. Zaim agreed with Dr. Sulaiman and added that economists should focus more on the Arab World's exports, which is a crisis in itself since Arab exports have been exploited and determined by the West or the importers.

Mr. Zaim called for a distinction between Arab export-oriented products and products which are oriented towards local consumption.

Dr. Hassan Gharabeh commented that "We have to change the consumption pattern of our societies and abandon the agribusiness/agro-consumer mentality." "We have developed foreign concepts of trying to solve our problems whereas we have to develop our own plans to meet both our regional and pan-Arab levels of aspirations."

In Sunday's afternoon session, Dr. Abdul Latif Benachenhou from the International Institute for Educational Planning presented a case study on "Food Security in Africa and its Technological and Educational Implications." The paper said that the continent's main agricultural problems were due to marketing and infrastructural issues.

The Crown Prince hosted a dinner Sunday night in honour of the participants of the seminar. The dinner was attended by high-ranking officials and members of the Arab Thought Forum.

## BRITISH AIRCRAFT CORPORATION

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FROM SUITABLY QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED PERSONNEL FOR THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES AT THE TECHNICAL STUDIES INSTITUTE OF THE ROYAL SAUDI AIR FORCE, DHAHRAN, KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS

CANDIDATES SHOULD POSSESS:  
A UNIVERSITY DEGREE WITH LANGUAGE OR LINGUISTICS AS A SUBJECT

THREE YEARS OF TEACHING ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IS ESSENTIAL

CONSIDERATION WILL ONLY BE GIVEN TO THOSE CANDIDATES WHO ARE FREE FROM ANY GOVERNMENT RESTRICTION ON TAKING UP ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT AND A STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT MUST BE INCLUDED IN EACH APPLICATION WHICH, WITH FULL DETAILS OF QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN ENGLISH TO:



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## Trouble hits Philippines vote counting

(Continued from page 1)

who saw the whole incident. He said Aquino supporters in the public gallery chanted "Marcos, concede" and the women stood up together and fled. When they burst through the centre's off-limits area they were met by people he recognised as Aquino aides.

Work in the proof reading section came to a halt. About 100 people working on computers nearby just sat in front of their machines.

An international group of poll-watchers joined the official U.S. observer team in hurling charges of cheating at the Marcos camp. The 44-strong group from 19 countries said it found no evidence of wrongdoing by Aquino supporters but there were serious abuses by government officials in 200 of the more than 86,000 polling stations they visited on Friday.

Chairman John Hume of Northern Ireland told a press conference: "Serious malpractice has taken place in a number of areas, including widespread purchase of votes."

Commissioner Jaime Opinion abandoned a television press conference at the centre and stalked off to another room amid booing and jeering from hundreds of people packed in the public gallery. Uproar broke out when he produced new figures of

5,846,875 votes for Mr. Marcos

and 5,395,860 for Mrs. Aquino. He said he had compiled them from other officials' "phoned in field reports." But he said he could not put them on display because official returns were still awaited.

The Aquino camp put out its own figures saying she was leading by 5,972,450 to 4,703,537.

## Senior Tories assail Thatcher

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Walker said record unemployment — trebled to 13.5 per cent in Mrs. Thatcher's seven years in power — could lose the Conservatives the next election. Another cabinet minister, John Biffen, leader of the House of Commons, made a veiled criticism of the tough-talking style of Mrs. Thatcher and Norman Tebbit, the Conservative Party chairman.

Mr. Biffen condemned "the language of conflict" and the "perverse" view of the party as a

"raucous political faction." Former Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine, who resigned last month in opposition to the U.S. bid for Westland, echoed Mr. Biffen in a speech in Blackpool, saying the voters would reject "arrogance" in government.

He spoke of the "frustration and bitterness" of the unemployed in Mrs. Thatcher's Britain and said the government must restore a belief in "caring capitalism."

## Mitsubishi runs course on vehicle maintenance

AMMAN (J.T.) — A training course on the maintenance of Japanese Mitsubishi cars concluded a few days ago. The course, held by the Jordanian Trade Company Limited, was designed to upgrade the efficiency of mechanics working at the company.

A number of chosen mechanics

took part in the course, given by the Japanese expert on car maintenance Masahiro Enohara from the international Japan-based Mitsubishi Industries.

Trainees were given lectures on the most advanced methods and techniques in maintaining cars and pick-ups.



# Middle East conflicts surface on the Mediterranean

By Mladen Gavrilovic

The writer is the diplomatic editor of the Tanjug News Agency

MUCH has been happening during the past few months in the Mediterranean and the Middle East, Lebanon in particular. First, the world was shocked by the hijacking of the Achille Lauro, and further disquieted by the news that American fighter craft had intercepted a plane of Egypt's civil airlines. Not long after followed the brutal terrorist attacks on the airports in Rome and Vienna, and the U.S. alert in NATO's southern defence wing, sending off an armada of warships in the direction of the Libyan shores. Once again peace in the Mediterranean has been seriously menaced, in the immediate vicinity of the Levant engulfed in the fires of war over ten years ago.

Today's world is beset by many trouble-spots, however, the events in the Levant and Mediterranean continue for decades, are certainly a formidable threat to peace in the world. Every day the winds of war in Lebanon sweep away countless innocent victims and cause untold material damage. On the other side of the Mediterranean stage is the Iran-Iraq theatre of war. While the conflict in the Gulf is limited to two countries squaring accounts by force of arms, the Lebanese stage is the site of many conflicting factors both internal and external. If it were possible to unravel this knot, this would open up an important process of pacification in this hazardous region, a stone's throw

from the rich oil fields of the Arab world. It would also mean a change for the better in the life of the Lebanese who for ten long years have been witnessing destruction and death from one day to another. The seeds of discord were sown by Israel in 1967 when that country attacked and occupied Arab territories some of which it still holds today.

## U.S. deprived of allied support

The squadron of American war ships, sailing along the Libyan coast during the past few days, is obviously not only a demonstration of power politics but of threats against an independent and non-aligned country of the Arab World. The first excitement over these "war games" seems to be over: Colonel Qadhafi met this demonstration by part of the American sixth fleet quite calmly. On the other hand the United States did not stop at mere threats. Washington has announced an economic boycott of Libya and appealed for support to its allies in Western Europe. However, Reagan's appeal has failed to meet with response.

Western Europe looks askance on any return to cold war policy. America's NATO allies have evoked different interests. The EEC countries and NATO members are loath to forfeit their position as Libya's trading partners; some because of their interests in Libyan oil purchases and others because of trade with this North African country.

Italy purchases Libyan oil to the tune of over two and half billion

dollars per annum. There are about 16 thousand Italians working in this former Italian colony, thus solving the problem of how to earn their living. Furthermore, Italy, — with the Soviet Union — is currently the largest supplier of weapons for Libya's army.

Great Britain's interests are twofold. First of all one should recall that her diplomatic relations with Libya were severed in 1984 because of the action of Libyan students in London, and now Britain is seeking ways and means of repairing the rift. Furthermore British capital engaged in Libya has definite interests of its own. It has been estimated that there are over sixty British corporations and firms operating on Libyan territory. The British have entered into serious projects involving considerable investments but also promising high profits during the years to come. Libya's economic development at a time when the world is in the throes of an economic crisis is too formidable a challenge to British capital for it to throw all this away just because Washington has decided to impose economic sanctions on this Arab country. Each of America's European allies is determined to safeguard its own position, convinced that pulling out of Libya would only make room for rivals to move in, and these would mainly be the other members of the European "twelve."

The West Germans, like the French, are in no mood to follow in the footsteps of Washington's "economic war" against Libya. Paris and Bonn both have their own interests at heart, despite osci-

llations in relations with Qadhafi. It is therefore easy to see why Reagan's "economic war" combined with threats by the U.S. navy has failed to produce the desired results. While Washington is now losing the support of its allies, Qadhafi has good prospects of rapprochement with the Arab countries which he looked upon as enemies not so long ago. Any kind of rapprochement between Libya and the rest of the Arab World would undoubtedly help to improve the general state of affairs in the expanses between the Mediterranean and the Gulf.

## Geneva and the Mediterranean scene

At one time Great Britain had its own conception of Mediterranean policy, for the Mediterranean was part of the Empire's route to the Far East and Australia. The United States had no such policy, yet it has become the decisive factor among the Western countries in this part of the world. Bearing this in mind, Washington hoped to win the support of its allies for its plans against Libya.

American presence in the Mediterranean after the last war was always in the service of NATO. It inevitably came to expression in confrontation with the Soviet Union and the doctrine on extending military, financial and technical assistance to America's Mediterranean allies — Greece, Turkey and Spain. The geopolitical location of these countries, the so-called southern defences of NATO, is inherent in the Alliance's strategic plans. How-

ever, economic interests are on a par with military objectives, especially in the South-East Wing of Atlantic defense — namely Greece and Turkey — both at a stone's throw from the Gates to the Orient in the anteroom of rich oil-bearing regions.

On the other hand, the Soviet fleet is likewise present from time to time in the Mediterranean. The East Mediterranean expanses include to some extent the Levantine coast and the adjacent Middle East which, as the Soviet Union sees it, is included in global Soviet-American relations.

In the course of preparations for the Gorbachev-Reagan summit in Geneva, there was a meeting of Soviet and American Middle East experts in Moscow. What was discussed at this meeting and what its results were remain a secret, inaccessible to the general public. However, after the Geneva meeting, both sides leaked the information that the two leaders had discussed various trouble-spots in the world, which obviously includes the Middle East crisis. Naturally these exchanges of views must have included talks on events in Central America and Afghanistan, even in South-East Asia.

In the case of the Middle Eastern crisis, it is obvious that no solution can be sought without the direct participation of interested parties in the talks, including, on a footing of equality, representatives of the PLO.

Now, three months after the Geneva summit, the United States is facing a challenge in the Mediterranean. Any wrong move which might involve it in a new

conflict would ruin the labour of many months in anticipation of the Geneva meeting. One must admit that the Gorbachev-Reagan meeting did not produce any visible results — but it did open up sound prospects of a broader process for resolving the world's most vital problems and transforming the dialogue into a broad-based, universal process. Great hopes are now being pinned on a continuation of the Soviet-American talks. Should it take an undesirable turn, the crisis in the Mediterranean, will destroy the favourable atmosphere created in Geneva.

The Soviet daily Pravda has published an article claiming that the danger of an American-Israeli attack on Libya has not passed and that the worst may happen at any moment. It remains to be seen during the next few weeks whether Pravda's fears are well-founded. Any military action in this part of the world would be a menace to the international situation already fraught with many dangers.

The world has denounced the policy of pressure, but it equally disapproves of terrorist activities. The entire international public has denounced the unheeded acts of terrorism committed at the airports in Vienna and Rome. There is no justification for acts of terrorism, but neither can one justify threats to independent countries, for these threats also constitute a menace to the international order and a violation of the principles contained in the U.N. Charter — Review of International Affairs, Belgrade.

## Food too needs planning

OF ALL Arab and regional gatherings that have been held in Jordan, the current conference on food security in the Arab and Third World countries is one of the most significant. This is so because the seminar addresses itself to basic elements of life which we need to know about and study every day. The delegates taking part in the three-day conference are undoubtedly aware of the serious consequences of famine and drought in the world and, as His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan pointed out at the opening session, the question of food production and food security has become a central issue in many Third World countries. The delegates also no doubt realise that insecure economies mean a shaky political independence, and based on this we expect the seminar's recommendations to contribute to the improvement of food production in needy countries.

The drought and famine which hit Africa in 1985 and before did not come all of a sudden to that continent. Rather, it was a culmination of a series of ill-planning and failures to develop land and increase agricultural production, and therefore it should be emphasised that the tragic situation in the black continent was a natural result of failures by policy-makers and planners.

Of course, global and political issues like world economic recession, national debts and others have contributed to the problems of food production. According to some statistics, 60 per cent of what the Arab World consumes at present is imported from foreign nations, and if the current trend in growing population continues, with a decline in agricultural production, the end of the 20th century will probably find us importing 90 per cent of our food.

A call by the Crown Prince on the developing nations to make greater efforts for the sake of avoiding drought and famine such as that of Ethiopia and Sudan serves as an "alarm bell" warning nations about such consequences. Jordan as a Third World country has embarked on measures to increase food production through ambitious agricultural schemes, and recent government measures to exploit arid regions are perhaps among the latest in this endeavour. But, to achieve good results, regional cooperation in the field of food production is required and facilities in marketing produce are essential. Of course, it is reasonable to say that rich and technologically advanced countries have a basic role to play in this connection because it is they who provide advanced techniques to develop agriculture. Experience, coupled with vast Arab financial resources, can together produce these results. It is good that experts and agricultural specialists have come together to discuss this vital issue of food security, but who can guarantee that their useful ideas would be accepted and adopted by their respective governments?

Perhaps the lesson of Africa, which Crown Prince Hassan was careful to highlight in his key-note address to the conference, would herald the advent of a new impetus to move things forward.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: U.S. vetoes

THE United States veto of a U.N. Security Council resolution that aimed to condemn Israel's hijacking of a civil plane is part of a U.S.-Israeli strategy directed against the Arab nation in general and the Palestinian people in particular. Washington's support of Israel's drive to perpetuate to no-war, no-peace situation in the Middle East is also part of this strategy. The United States, like Israel, does not want to give the Palestinians the right to self-determination in their homeland, and like Israel, the U.S. does not want the Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 to be implemented but it wants the Camp David accord to be applied on the Arabs by force so that Israeli occupation of Arab land can last for ever. The United States does not want to see an end to the present deadlock in the efforts to resolve the Middle East problem because it simply wants to keep the Palestine issue frozen, without any solution. This is all part of a U.S.-Israeli strategy that consecrates blackmail against the Arabs who struggle to regain their rights.

### Al Dustour: Food security

PRINCE Hassan's address to the three-day conference on Food Security in the Arab and Third World countries served as an alarm bell calling the attention of the whole Arab nation to the danger of the food problem. Prince Hassan said that the food problem which is being aggravated every day in the Arab World is caused by drought and desertification and is gradually forcing the Arabs to be more and more dependent on food imports from other countries. It is clear that this problem cannot be dealt with single-handedly but should rather be tackled through cooperation among Arab states which can work out a pan-Arab strategy for increasing agricultural production and ensuring food security. As we approach the end of the present century, we find the Arabs more dependent on foreign help and less capable of confronting the causes of hunger and starvation. Therefore, priority in the Arab World should be given at this stage to developing means of increasing food and making the Arabs self-sufficient in food supplies.

### Sawt Al Shaab: The danger of food dependency

PRINCE Hassan submitted his own ideas to a conference on Food Security in the Arab and Third World countries at a time when the Arab World is suffering from a serious shortage of food supplies and when more and more Arab countries are depending on imported food to feed their people. Prince Hassan offered ideas about the best manner to handle the situation, pointing to the root cause of the danger and making proposals for a solution. He said that the food problem can be handled through a joint Arab action and a pan-Arab strategy that can ensure self-sufficiency. The production of food has become a world problem, and in developing nations, this issue has been given priority because social and economic development is primarily based on food production. Prince Hassan called on the Arabs to give priority to developing ways of increasing their food supplies.

## Gaza's creaking health service

By Deb K. Pal

AT 7.45 a.m. on a Tuesday morning in Nasser hospital in Gaza three cars arrive bringing a team of six doctors and four assistants to a five room refugee shelter. Chairs and tables are moved and a five foot long chest of drawers, the pharmacy, is carried out of one car and placed on a trestle table at the end of the porch. This group of volunteers, the Medical Relief Agency, has been setting up its mobile clinic every fortnight for the past year wherever there has been a felt need.

Malnutrition is no longer the major concern it was ten years ago, but it is still no surprise to see 12 cases at the clinic, children and women. Last year 1,500 infants under the age of two were registered as underweight at UNRWA clinics, 90 of them with third degree malnutrition. Nutrition-related diseases have decreased to low levels, but occasionally instances appear such as the 30 cases of gallstones discovered in Deir Al Balah last month.

The main focus of medical attention in the camps, where 40 per cent of the Gaza Strip's 500,000 population live, is on the inadequate sanitation which is responsible for the prevalence of water-borne diseases. Infective hepatitis is endemic in Jabalia camp and cholera is endemic in the Al Shajabiah district of Gaza. In Beach camp, effluent from some latrines joins waste water flowing along open drains through the streets directly into the Mediterranean, where bathers are swimming. Household refuse litters the sandy streets where children and animals play. UNRWA, which is responsible for sanitation in the camps, blames the situation on financial shortages (a \$42.5 million deficit this year) and the demoralisation of the refugees.

There are over 300 visitors to the clinic during the morning, each paying a nominal fee of \$1 so as not to make the services seem like a charity. The need for organisations like the Medical Relief Agency and the large number of patients who attend its clinics indicates a deficiency in health provision for the poor. Last year, a UNRWA official estimates, 75 per cent of the 400,000 refugees in the Strip were covered by the Israeli health insurance scheme. High inflation has forced up the premium monthly and this year only 60 per cent of refugee families can afford to keep up their subscription of approximately \$10 per month.

The two main hospitals in the Gaza Strip, Shifa hospital in Gaza and the smaller Nasser hospital in Khan Younis are in a lamentable state owing to chronic underfunding. Equipment and laboratory facilities fall far short of the standards in government hospitals in Israel. There is a severe lack of staff, particularly specialists. One senior doctor in Nasser hospital had simultaneous responsibility for the reception hall and another department. That week he was working three normal working days, three 24-hour shifts and only the seventh day off. The extra hours were worked

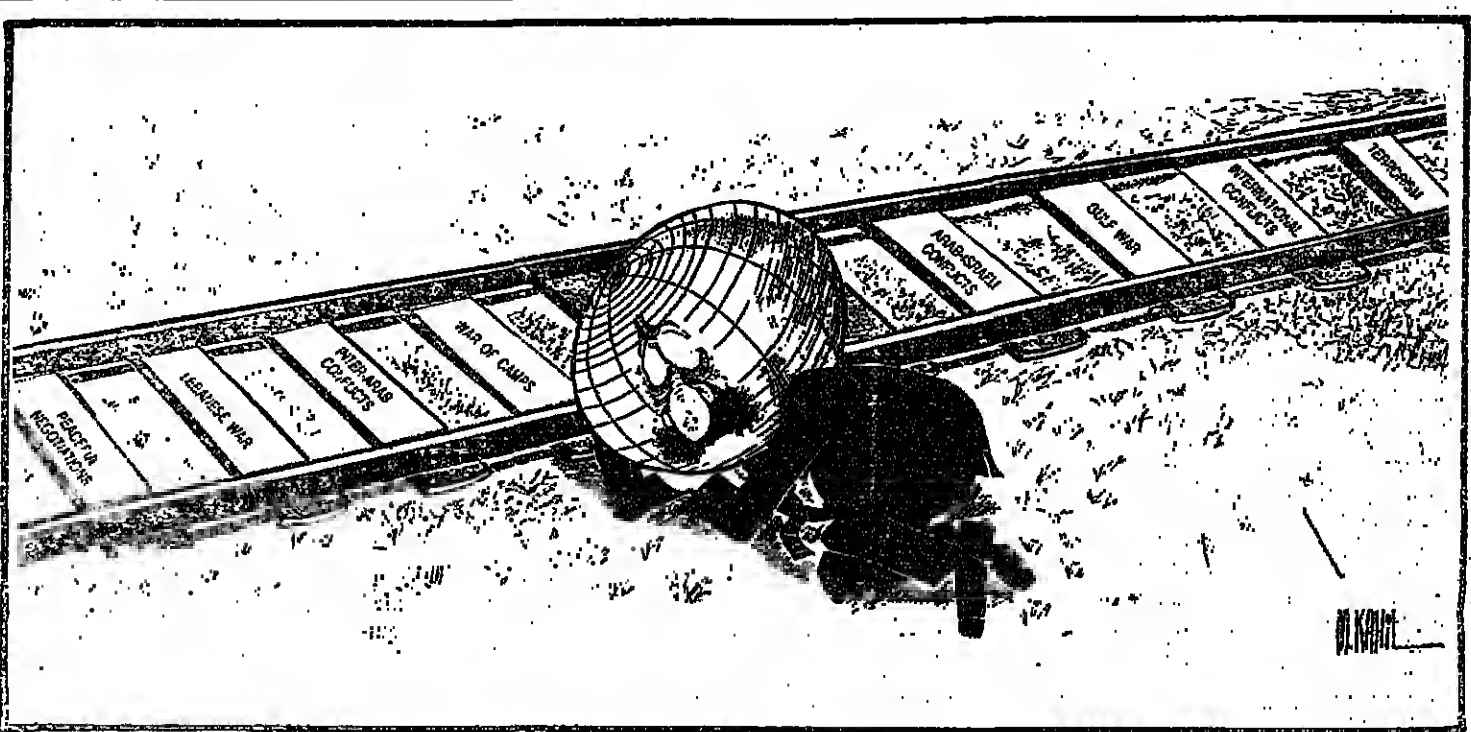
unpaid — there was simply a job to be done and not enough doctors to do it. At the same time 80 doctors are unemployed; the Israeli authorities say that financial constraints prevent them employing much needed staff. Meanwhile they have repeatedly blocked plans for privately funded Palestinian hospitals and clinics.

Nasser hospital used to have a 20-bed orthopaedic department with three operating theatres, but in December 1984 these were closed after serious bacterial contamination was discovered, and the department transferred to Shifa. Renovation work should have been completed by June, but the doors of the theatres remain locked and staff are pessimistic about their reopening despite assurances from the public health department. The loss of the operating theatres would cause considerable difficulties for the 200,000 who live in the south of the Strip, in Khan Younis and Rafah. The extra 24-km journey could be perilous in an emergency, not to mention the cost of the trip and the added burden on the stressed Shifa hospital.

A collection of old looking huddles, except for newly constructed surgical, obstetrics and gynaecology departments, Shifa hospital is crowded and noisy by Western standards. In the medical wards extra beds are squeezed in, one six-bed ward is unoccupied, closed because of contamination. In other rooms broken beds lie unprepared. Some corridor floors are greasy and grimy; in a kitchen a cat gobbles food from a tray next to the sink, another steps daintily around the rim of a full and rather messy toilet bowl, gazing downwards. Of 17 cases of infant septicaemia in 1982, 16 died and the survivor suffered irreparable mental damage; hospital contamination was the cause.

Since February of this year elective surgery, that is non-emergency surgery, was banned. Only those cases detailed on a list issued by the Israeli public health department were to be allowed. Again financial pressure was given as the reason for this extreme measure. In despair, doctors altered patients' records so that those in dire need of surgery could fall into the emergency category and have their operations performed quickly. Since July the ban has been replaced by a quota of four elective operations per day.

There are strong rumours amongst doctors that the Shifa hospital will be sold within a year to an American company who will turn it into a private hospital. The fees for one night's stay at the only private hospital in Gaza, the 103-year-old Ahli Arab hospital, can easily run up to \$100 when surgery and medication charges are added on. Privatisation would then have serious adverse effects on health services, not least for the 40 per cent of refugees who cannot even afford health insurance. While the authorities' plans are uncertain, the forced closure of East Jerusalem's Hospice hospital and the treasury's debt of \$5.7 billion owed to private hospitals in Israel do not offer any hopeful signs for the future — Middle East International, London.



## Assassin's bullet pulled Cory Aquino into politics

By Graham Lovell  
Reader

MANILA — The assassin's bullet which felled opposition leader Benigno Aquino at Manila Airport in August 1983 dragged his grieving widow Cory out of the shadows into the forefront of Philippine politics.

Maria Corazon Cojuangco's marriage at 21 to the young, ambitious Aquino was a glittering match between two great landowning families in the northern Philippines.

Her journalist-turned-politician husband seemed set for a lofty future after serving as mayor, provincial governor and then senator. "Cory" was content, as she later said, to be "simply a politician's wife."

But Aquino was arrested in September 1972, when President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law. He was released in 1980 to go to the United States for heart surgery, and shot dead when he returned to the Philippines in 1983.

His murder thrust Cory Aquino into roles first as opposition "kingmaker" and then finally as presidential contender. She became public property.

Unlike her ebullient brother-in-law Agapito "Butz" Aquino, she at first seldom appeared at mass rallies, only sometimes spoke at public meetings, never gave the image of a possible challenger to Marcos.

But she became the focus of attention as thoughts turned to her as the mantle-bearer of the man who had lived, might have been the alternative to Marcos.

While Butz Aquino led noisy demonstrators as close as they could go to the gates of the Malacanang presidential palace, others looked to Cory Aquino if not at first as a candidate, then at least as the one to give her dead husband's benediction to the opposition nominee.

It was not an easy role for her to play, just as she seems a little out of place presiding over a family business empire on the seventh-floor office of a family-owned building.

"The only time I had ever been active politically was when Ninoy (her husband) was campaigning to be governor (of Tarlac province) or senator," she once said in an interview. "I went the usual rou-

nds of shaking hands with people in markets, farms and factories asking them to vote for Ninoy.

"But beyond that, I was simply a politician's wife. I was completely in the background. I took care of the home and the children and Ninoy took care of the rest."

She was still "in the background" when she returned to Manila with her teenage daughters and son a few days after her husband's murder.

But in the stormy months that followed — the mass rallies, demonstrations and other anti-Marcos agitation — she was assiduously courted by politicians anxious for the benefits that a Cory Aquino blessing would give to their own fortunes.

She was also pitched suddenly into the tougher reality of Philippine politics where courtly wooing is soon displaced by mailed fist rivalry, where "goons, guns and gold" become the prerequisite, and the attacks come from erstwhile "allies" as much as from opponents.

As the presidential election and her own candidacy became more of a reality, so did the sniping from the opposition sidelines about her apparent weaknesses.

These included her political inexperience and inexperience in government, economics and world affairs, and whether she could offer an alternative government after 20 years of populist authoritarian Marcos rule.

Could she control the armed forces, many of its generals closely identified with Marcos or his politically powerful wife Imelda, or curb Communist rebellion — or would she be a pawn of extreme left influences?

Cory Aquino said: "I do not pretend to be politically brilliant. All I can say is that I do not have experience in borrowing \$26 billion and in spending money that is not mine."

She said she would gather around her "15 dedicated men and women" to help her run the economic and other affairs of the government.

What she would offer, she said, would be "sincerity and commitment in restoring the rights and freedoms that Filipinos have lost during the Marcos administration."

Cory Aquino was born in Manila on January 25, 1933. From a sheltered existence on the family Hacienda 75 miles north of the

capital, the Roman Catholic girl was educated locally and later mainly in the United States.

She studied at Ravenhill Academy, Philadelphia, and at Notre Dame Convent and Mount Saint Vincent in New York. She is a BA in French and Mathematics.

She married Benigno Aquino after a whirlwind romance, sat on the sidelines of politics and then found herself a "martial law widow" visiting her husband at a military stockade in Manila, along with scores of others in a similar situation.

"I considered that my 'learning period'," she said. "I really had to manage on my own, give occasional interviews to the press and generally substitute for him."

His release to go to the United States for heart surgery gave them a chance to live again as husband and wife.

"Those were probably the happiest years of our life," she says of her three years in Boston. "We were together, finally tasting what it was like to be a family in the real sense."

Many of the Cojuangco clan are identified with Cory Aquino in her politics. Cousins and kinfolk have

marched in rallies or held roles in the opposition ranks, using their influence and wealth in their home province and elsewhere.

There is a cousin in the National Assembly who vied for opposition leadership and another, a woman, who was rated one of the world's 10 best-dressed women and has tripped down Manila boulevard with anti-Marcos demonstrators.

An odd man out is Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, Cory Aquino's first cousin and one of the richest, most influential private businessmen in the Philippines.

A close associate of Marcos, Cojuangco head the giant San Miguel Food and Beverage Corporation, is nicknamed "The Coconut Tsar," has been trying to take control of sugar trading and was at one time touted as a possible Marcos running-mate in the presidential election.

Cory Aquino said: "A lot of people from government tried to see me after Ninoy died but I never heard a word from Danding, not even a message. That I am sorry about. That I regret. I would have expected something better."

## LETTERS

### Travel agents' plight

To the Editor

I READ with keen interest the letter of Mr. De La Plume in your edition of January 29th, 1986. The enthusiastic stand he takes, on the side of the travel agent, is indeed heartening.

As someone who is very involved in this profession, allow me to make two comments:

— The headline you have used "Profiteers not prophets" implies that the only interest Jordanian travel agents have is in that dirty word, PROFIT. My interpretation of the letter is that the author does not find anything wrong in working for profit. Are we not all in one business or another to make money? Frankly, I find your headline very presuming.

— I resent Mr. De La Plume's implication when he writes: "True, many travel agents in Jordan were attracted... His various statements apply not to Jordanian travel agents only, but to ALL agents under the sun."

Mr. De La Plume seems to be very familiar with the plight of travel agents here, so I have to assume that he, himself, is in one way or another involved in travel and tourism. Whoever he is, I thank him.

Munir Y. Nassar  
Managing Director  
International Travelers  
Amman



## Sudan expects record grain crop, but food problems are far from over

By James R. Peiper  
The Associated Press

**KHARTOUM, Sudan** — After three years of catastrophic drought and famine, Sudan is bringing in a record grain crop. But the country's food problems are far from over.

The government and United Nations relief officials are seeking about \$120 million from international donors to buy surplus grain in the east. They want to transport it to other far-flung regions of Africa's largest country where they estimate 5 million people are still going hungry.

"Definitely some of them will starve to death," said Aziz Saleh of Egypt, chief representative in Sudan for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

Most of those in need, Saleh said, are in the arid, far western province of Darfur and in northern Kordofan province in central Sudan. The FAO representative said those areas had poor rains and lacked enough seeds for planting because people had to eat them during the famine.

There also are pockets of famine, he said, in the Red Sea hills in the northeast and in eastern Equatoria in the far south, where a civil war has disrupted food production and distribution.

Saleh said Sudanese farmers expect this year to harvest 4.6 million tons of cereals — sorghum, the staple food, millet and wheat. This compares to 1.5 million tons last season and an average of 2.6 million tons the previous five

years. The main growing areas are along the Nile and further east.

Sudan's annual grain needs are estimated at around 3.1 million tons. This would mean a surplus of about 1.5 million tons from the 1985-86 season.

A grain problem, however, according to relief workers, Western diplomats and the government, is that the country is virtually broke and has no funds to pay farmers and middle men a fair price for the grain and the transport costs. Thus the appeal to international donors.

"Now, we really speak in Sudan of a cash famine. It is not a crop famine," Prime Minister El Gazouly Dafaallah remarked in a talk with a group of foreign journalists.

The country is totally impoverished — broke. They cannot even pay the civil service," added Winston Prattley, a Briton who is the U.N. Secretary-General's special representative for emergency operations in Sudan.

"They cannot buy the grain from the private sector, from the farmers who have grown it successfully for the first time in several years ... and the people in need are far removed, thousands of kilometers from where the grain is grown."

Saleh and some Western diplomats agreed it may be more difficult to persuade donors to provide money to pay farmers and middle men than it was to trigger the outpouring of food aid last year during the height of the famine.

The response by governments, international bodies, private aid agencies and ordinary people was

tinged with emotion.

Millions of people in the Western world saw television footage of skeletal famine victims and gave from the heart. They may not be so willing to help Sudanese grain merchants, land owners and truckers make tidy profits.

In the grain market in Omdurman, Khartoum's twin city across the Blue Nile, opak kilogramme (198-pound) sacks of sorghum are stacked 10 to 12 high, and some of the merchants are sufficiently affluent to come to work in Mercedes Benzes.

Agriculture in Sudan, a country 10 times the size of Britain, is dominated by several hundred large landholders. The merchants in the main grain trading centers of Omdurman, Wad Madani on the Blue Nile, Kosti on the White Nile and Nyala in the west are reputedly among the richest people in the country.

But the overabundance is a problem in itself. Taking advantage of decent rains that broke the drought, farmers planted record acreages of crops.

With so much grain on the market, prices dropped sharply. A standard sack of sorghum, for example, sold last year for around 160 Sudanese pounds — about \$65 at the official exchange rate — but now fetches about 30 pounds (\$12). Producers reckon they need to get around 40 pounds (\$16) per sack to break even.

Relief workers and Western diplomats said there had been widespread hoarding by middle men to drive up the price. Trucking companies are charging premium rates.



A Western diplomat, who spoke on condition he not be identified by name or nationality, said the donors' dealings with the producers and the truckers have

been "very frustrating." Donors and Sudanese officials expressed concern that unless the producers get a decent price this year for their crops, they will be

reluctant to commit themselves to big acreages next year. If another drought comes along, they argued, then Sudan could again find itself in desperate need of food.

## Cruise missiles have arrived but protest women are undeterred

By Joanne Mason  
Reuters

**GREENHAM COMMON, England** — In 1981 a group of women set up camp outside the U.S. air force base at Greenham Common to protest against the forthcoming installation of nuclear missiles.

Four-and-a-half years later 96 Cruise missiles are safely installed in their underground silos, but the Greenham women are undeterred.

Despite various ploys to dislodge them, they remain stubbornly around their camp fires in the most miserable conditions, adamant that their vigil still has a purpose.

About 40 women of all ages now live at five camps outside the gates of the perimeter of the base, some 60 miles west of London.

For them, Greenham has become a way of life.

They have no specific plan of action and cannot predict how

much longer they will stay. Just being at the base is important, bearing witness to the wrongs of the world, they say.

Most believe that a press report last month alleging that Soviet spies had infiltrated their numbers was yet another example of efforts to demoralise them and turn public opinion against them.

The report appeared in the leading military journal *Jane's Defence Weekly*, it alleged that since Cruise arrived in 1983, agents trained in Soviet military camps had joined the women, ready to attack the base in the event of a Soviet invasion.

The Soviet Union dismissed the report and part of the British press was equally sceptical.

The *Guardian* newspaper remarked in a sarcastic comment that Greenham would be no cushy hill for Soviet agents might indeed need rigorous training to endure the squalor and freezing nights huddled under a plastic sheet with

nowhere to wash and nowhere to dry out after a downpour.

"When we first arrived here we were condemned as lesbians, sluts or bad mothers, at best we were deluded or horribly ignorant about defence issues."

"Now we're intelligent and highly trained, but of course, working for the other side," said one woman camped outside the main entrance of the base.

Part of the daily routine is a visit or two from the local council health officers who have been given the authority to evict them from the patches of mud and gorse which made up the Common.

The eviction is usually carried out by three burly men who drive up in a rubbish truck accompanied by a police car. The women quickly sweep up their bedding, saucers and camp chairs and wheel them in prams onto the safety of the public footpath.

The bailiffs then dump any-

thing left behind into the truck and stamp out the camp fire.

Two minutes later, the women have reinstalled themselves.

Their presence at Greenham has aroused hostility in the nearby town of Newbury where they have been banned from cafes, shops and pubs. Police are investigating an incident where two women were attacked as they lay sleeping.

The Greenham women believe the animosity vented against them is evidence that their presence prevents the public from being able to ignore the nuclear dilemma, despite the government's insistence they have not affected Cruise deployment.

They have often broken into the base. On one occasion 21 appeared in court for driving a bus around the grounds, clocking up five miles before they were detected.

Such incidents, they say, are proof of the lack of security at the base which is manned by 1,200 U.S. military staff.

A more major operation for the women is to hamper the missile convoys which leave the base, usually at night, to take part in military exercises on Salisbury Plain.

Working alongside a group called Cruise Watch, they try to lie down in front of the convoy as it leaves the base and pursue it on its 30-mile journey across the countryside.

Writing in the U.S. magazine *Aviation Week* last year, the commander of the U.S. air force in Europe, General Charles Donnelly Junior, said missile crews at Greenham were able to drive their vehicles out on exercises for about 75 per cent of the optimum amount of time.

Officials were surprised by the Greenham women's tenacity and exercises had to be limited because of the expense of providing

police to protect the convoys, he said.

However the Greenham women gauge their successes, their heyday has passed and Cruise appears to be here to stay.

For a while their highly original protest brought the nuclear debate to the attention of the world. Women flocked in their thousands for demonstrations, baffling the authorities who did not know how to deal with women protesters.

Now they sit around their camp fires at night, recounting stories of various court appearances and spells spent in prison.

Some have enrolled for classes at the local college.

Another told how she sent off for a correspondence course in Esperanto but gave up after the second lesson got irretrievably trampled in the mud during a visit from the bailiffs.

"Maybe I should try Russian next time," she said wryly.

## New film is graphic account of West German guerrilla trial

By Nick Doughty  
Reuters

**HAMBURG, West Germany** — "Stammheim" is a prison movie, German-style, about a bomb-proof fortress and events which scarred this country less than a generation ago.

The fortress is Stammheim prison which West Germany built 11 years ago for the sole purpose of trying the leaders of the Red Army Faction (RAF), known as the "Baader-Meinhof" gang.

"Stammheim" concentrates almost entirely on the trial of Andreas Baader, Ulrike Meinhof, Jan-Carl Raspe and Gudrun Ensslin, urban guerrillas who shot, blasted and robbed their way across the country at the start of the 1970s.

This graphic account of their two-year trial is based on court transcripts and eyewitness accounts.

The authorities kept the defendants in almost permanent iso-

lation, "hugged" them and their lawyers, rushed through new emergency laws and leaked court documents to a newspaper.

RAF supporters launched spectacular and bloody bids to have their leaders freed between 1975 and 1977.

All four, condemned to spend the rest of their lives behind Stammheim's barbed wire, died in their cells. The official verdict was suicide but sympathisers claimed angrily that they were murdered.

The forbidding prison in the southwestern city of Stuttgart, built at a cost of 12 million marks (now five million dollars) for West Germany's most expensive trial.

The film action takes place in the bare solitary cells — where fluorescent strip lights hurred night and day — and the spartan court room.

The highly articulate guerrillas, in their 30s and 40s, were totally dedicated to their cause, born in the student unrest of the late

1960s out of disillusion with peaceful protest and a highly materialist West German society.

Meinhof, a former journalist who had been kept in solitary confinement for 239 days since the group's arrest in 1972, hanged herself in her cell in May 1976.

Charged with a series of bank robberies, shootings and bomb blasts at U.S. bases, the guerrillas mounted a defence insisting they were on trial for political crimes against "imperialist aggression" toward the world's poor and oppressed.

"If you set light to one car, it's a crime. But if you burn 100 cars, it's a political act," Meinhof once said.

But the court refused to recognise them as anything other than common criminals and reacted to the challenge to society with a tough crackdown.

The authorities passed a law allowing the trial to continue without the defendants, who, after going on hunger strike for better

conditions, were declared unfit to attend.

Defence appeals for a recession after Meinhof's death were dismissed and the defendants and their lawyers then boycotted the proceedings. The presiding judge was removed when he was caught passing confidential court documents on to a newspaper.

Attempts to have the guerrillas released included an assault on the West German embassy in Stockholm, the abduction and murder of an industrialist and — finally — the 1977 hijacking of an airliner to Mogadishu in Somalia.

But the government refused to negotiate throughout and passed an emergency law to keep the guerrillas isolated from each other and the outside world in the floodlit building patrolled by 500 armed police.

When a crack West German anti-terrorist unit freed the 86 Mogadishu hostages, the three remaining leaders were found dead in their cells the next morning.

There have been RAF attacks since, but none to parallel the 1970s "first generation" of urban guerrillas.

A total of 47 people died in seven years of violence up to 1977, including 17 guerrillas. Many West Germans still harbour memories of police checks, house searches in the small hours, and the mood of helplessness and fear which swept the country.

Newspapers and magazines have run extensive reviews of the film and interviews with 47-year-old director Reinhard Hauff.

The premiere of "Stammheim" in this northern port was halted when two dozen youths invaded the cinema and attacked the audience. Relatives of imprisoned guerrillas gave out pamphlets saying the film was not sufficiently left-wing.

But press showings leave the impression of a pyrrhic victory for the state over its most radical opponents.

"I didn't want to make it easy for the viewer. No one is completely in the right," said Hauff in an interview.

Hauff worked closely with author Stefan Aust, 40, who spent three years researching "The Baader-Meinhof Complex," the book on which the film is based.

"Everything there is to be said about terrorism, about the confrontation between a state and a revolutionary group that wants to change it by force, was said in this trial," Aust said in a recent magazine interview.

Television channels refused pointblank to have anything to do with the making of the film, and Hauff had to turn to Hamburg theatre director for funds and actors.

"Terrorism is a taboo theme," Hauff said, adding that he tried to follow Aust's example of documented objectivity, to let the reader or viewer make his own decisions.

## Brain gland linked to operation of body clock

By Warren E. Leary  
The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — A tiny gland lodged deep in the brain has been found to have nerve-like circuits to other parts of the organ, and scientists say these connections may help explain the gland's role in setting the body's biological clock.

Researchers at the National Institute of Health, working with West German scientists, said their discovery using hamster brains also may help show how the pineal gland influences mood and behaviour, including a form of depression that changes with seasonal exposure to light.

The discovery shows that the pineal gland is not just a free-floating, hormone-releasing structure that influences that rest of the brain in a general way, as has long been believed, said a report published Feb. 7 in the journal *Science*.

Rather, because the gland is "hardwired" into the brain with nerve-like connectors, it also may specifically act upon certain areas to affect behaviour, mood and day-night cycles of the body, it said.

The finding "dramatically changes our concept of the mammalian pineal gland," said Dr. David Klein, a neuroscientist at the NIH's National Institute of Child, Health and Human Development.

"Everyone thought the pineal gland only worked like a radio, sending hormonal messages diffusely through the blood like a radio sends its signals through the air," he said.

"But it may also work like a telephone, sending messages directly to specific targets through nerves that act like phone wires," Klein added.

Despite the general similarities among mammal brains, the researchers said further research is needed to tell if the connections seen in hamsters also exist in humans. They have begun studies of monkey brains as the next step.

The pineal gland is a light-sensitive organ closely related to retina cells in the eye, Klein said in an interview. Both types of tissue are believed to have evolved from a primitive light-receptive organ found in early animals, and they share certain proteins and chemicals found elsewhere in the body, he said.

Because the pineal is in the centre of the brain, it gets its light cues from a neural pathway which connects it with the retinas of the eyes. The gland secretes varying levels of hormones depending upon lighting conditions.

Klein collaborated with German scientists at Justus-Liebig University of Giessen to study pineal gland cells in hamster brains.

## Warning on use of vitamins

TOO much of a good thing — in this case vitamins — can be bad for you, says the Federal Health Office, Berlin.

Vitamins, far from being harmless, can harm health if taken in an overdose.

A balanced diet is usually enough, making additional intake of vitamin pills and preparations superfluous.

Vitamin A, which dissolves fat in body tissue and is good for the eyesight, can cause poisoning if taken in overdose.

Hair loss, eczema, jaundice, sweating, tiredness, nausea and menstrual upsets are among the unpleasant consequences that can occur.

The effect of vitamin B in counteracting stress has yet to be proved. Health Office scientists say an overdose of vitamin B1 can cause sweating, itch and asthma.

## New group campaigns to back Australian farmers

By Reg Gratton  
Reuters

**SYDNEY** — The Australian government is bracing itself for a new form of rural militancy that does by an old name.

Angry grain farmers say they face economic ruin and are threatening widespread civil disorder unless the government acts to ease their plight.

The grain-growers are enthusiastic members of the IRA — not the Irish guerrilla group but a New South Wales farmers' organisation dubbed IRAute Rural Australia.

"Farmers are not historically militant or violent people but I think we could only be three months away from violence," IRA co-militant member Brian Locke said.

Faced with high interest rates, depressed world commodity prices and heavy freight and handling charges, farmers have begun dumping grain in Australian streets to protest at their plight.

The IRA is considering blocking roads into major cities to back its demands for a better deal for the country's 60,000 growers within three months.

Last week police in Perth, western Australia broke up a demonstration by angry farmers after they shouted down Prime Minister Bob Hawke with demands that he listen to their grievances.

Peter Ryan, an IRA leader in New South Wales, is one of many farmers facing financial disaster because he cannot repay loans taken out when interest levels were about half the present rate.

The growers want the government to ease interest rates, freeze fuel prices, provide additional funds to help farmers repay debts, review the high fertiliser costs and increase spending in the rural sector.

Major rural groups like the National Farmers' Federation have given cautious support to the farmers' plans for taking to the streets.

So far though the Labour government's response has been cool with the primary industry ministry saying it will not be pushed into rushing out a special aid package.

Randa Hagib's  
Corner

## Wise decision, long process

A few days ago, five hundred kilograms of utensils were allowed into the country under a cabinet decision which exempted those items from customs duties.

The fact is that those utensils came from a large foreign airline company. They were plates, cups, trays and cutlery etc... all items used for catering aboard planes. The utensils were supposed to be destroyed because the airline company changed its brand and type of utensils and so had to change all the items used aboard its aircraft in order to introduce the new utensils. Someone then came with this great idea: Why not give all those plastic utensils to a welfare society? The Deaf Society in Salt was this time the beneficiary.

So a decision to exempt all those items from taxes was taken few months ago by the council of ministers, according to a law of customs issued in 1983.

Routine then had to take its time. A list of items was made as there was no airway bill as in ordinary import procedures. The Customs Department was cooperative, sending their own people to the store in the airport where the container was kept to help draw up this list and the Deaf Society was asked to send a letter stating that these items will not be sold. Simple routine.

On this first occasion the whole process took a long time (eight months after the cabinet decision) but next time it should certainly be much smoother and quicker. And this should encourage other airlines to do the same whenever they are thinking of changing the utensils used on board their planes. Restaurants and hotels which sometimes change their signs or decide on new colours and fancier plates should do the same. Let our welfare societies take advantage of those costly publicity decisions.

## One man's meat is another man's ship of the desert

By John Rogers  
Reuters

**CAIRO** — It's on your second visit to Cairo's camel market, a serious trading place and a minor tourist site, that you realise there is more to camels than meets the eye.

What meets the eye is nothing but camels — being herded, prodded, displayed to buyers or struck with bamboo staves as owners try, often without success, to get the animals to stand or sit.

In case of escape bids, the beasts are hobbled with a rope tied round one front leg.

On your first visit to the large enclosure in the suburb of Ikhaha, you take in the fact that all you can see is several hundred camels (and, to be fair, some traders).

As an old hand on your second visit, you learn that the one-humped "ship of the desert" Arabian camel has many uses.

Apart from being a work animal, carrying produce or riders long distances, camels are sold as meat. Eight out of every 10 sold in the Cairo market are destined for slaughter.

The flesh, they say, is tough and is long cooking. But the taste is strong. "It's better than beef," says John n. el Kheir, from Suhan's Darfour province. "It makes you strong."

Like animals in rural communities world-wide, camels are status symbols to those who live by the skin.

"If you haven't got a good camel, you're not worth much," says another Sudanese trader, 20-year-old Bashir Jansour. Dealers may make three journeys a year on the "40-day trail" from Suhan's Darfour or Kor-

lofan provinces, each time with a caravan of 100 camels or more. They cross the desert on foot to Isna, a city on the Nile in upper Egypt, where they are put on a train or trucked up to Cairo.

The Ikhaha market serves as a central trading point, an abiding over an animal's finer points is intense.

As in other commodity markets, traders clasp up when an outsider asks how much money they make. So no refuse to discuss the subject, others go so far as to reveal that a camel fetches 500 to 800 Egyptian pounds (\$370 to \$590) — but not how much of that is profit.

Is business good? "Would we be here if it wasn't?" replies Bashir Jansour — his last word on the subject.

On the Cairo-darfour manages the market, taking a fee for each beast sold. He says it may be shifted elsewhere, as the government wants the land for new housing. But nothing is yet final.

Welco no refuse for a sea of camels, packed close together as they are led to coats, sheep and hardware.

Dozens of "lonkeys," Egyptians' favourite work animal, show legs in a far more graceful way than the camel. Youngsters, sitting in the annual camel fair at Pushkar in the Rajasthan Desert, it pulls in dozens of tourists each day.

Though the Cairo camel market is a trading place, without the colour of special events like India's annual camel fair at Pushkar in the Rajasthan Desert, it pulls in dozens of tourists each day.

"It's getting to be like the pyramids," says an Egyptian visitor, with so no hyperbole — a camelpark, the number of foreigners clicking cameras to the herds at Cairo's most popular attraction.

## White South Africans rush to learn an African language

By Adrian Croft  
Reuters

**JOHANNESBURG** — White South Africans worried about their future in the riot-torn country are rushing to learn an African language, according to education experts.

After centuries in which the onus was on the black majority to speak Afrikaans or English, many whites are finally making an effort to talk to black people in their own languages, they said.

The rush to learn an African language has gathered pace with the rising death toll — nearly 1,100 in two years — from violence as blacks protested against apartheid and their exclusion from political power, the experts said.

The language boom has been fuelled by a new television programme aimed at teaching Zulu, South Africa's most widely spoken black language, to white viewers.

"Siyafunda" (we are learning) tries to teach whites a few Zulu phrases each week by showing native speakers in conversation. It is

the first programme of its kind to be shown on national television in South Africa.

Broadcast twice a week in both Afrikaans and English, the programme has been a tremendous success, according to Margaret Landers, manager of English educational programmes at the South African Broadcasting Corporation.

Landers said people found the programme fascinating and there had been constant enquiries from the public.

Howard Coleman, managing director of programmed language courses, which sells language tapes for home learning, said African language tapes now accounted for 65 per cent of the firm's turnover, up from five per cent eight years ago.

He said the firm received about 3,500 enquiries a month from people interested in learning one of six African languages on offer: Northern and southern Sotho, Zulu, Xhosa, Venda and Tswana.



## United and Liverpool struggle to 1-1 draw

LIVERPOOL, England (AP) — Manchester United held Liverpool 1-1 in a thrilling battle between two English soccer giants Sunday to draw level on points with champion Everton in the league standings.

Colin Gibson fired visiting United ahead in the 15th minute, but Liverpool's substitute, John Wark, levelled four minutes before half time.

Everton stayed on top of the standings because of a superior goal difference, but the result meant that only two points covered the top four in the championship race.

The Manchester side, which led the standings from the start of the season in August until last weekend, required a victory to regain top spot, while Liverpool needed to win by three goals to overtake Everton, its Merseyside neighbour.

The tie meant Liverpool replaced Chelsea in third place.

Without its suspended and injured captain Bryan Robson, Man-

chester plunged Danish international Johnny Siveback into the Anfield cauldron for his debut. Siveback, playing on the right side of midfield, was one of three Danes on view, the others being United's Jesper Olsen and Liverpool's Jan Moelby.

All three are scheduled to be in Denmark's squad for this summer's World Cup Finals in Mexico.

After absorbing early Liverpool pressure, United took the lead when Colin Gibson exchanged close passes with Mark Hughes and ran clear of the home defence.

His first shot was well stopped by Liverpool's Zimbabwe-born goalkeeper, Bruce Grobbelaar, but the ball squirmed loose and Gibson followed up to prod it home.

Liverpool had to re-organise when striker Paul Walsh limped off, to be replaced by midfielder Wark, and the Merseyside team at first looked disjointed.

But four minutes before the interval, Liverpool's Irish fullback, Jim Beglin, set up a shooting chance for Sammy Lee, whose shot hit the post. The ball rebounded across the face of United's goal and Wark forced it home.

In the second half, Liverpool's game slotted into gear and its machine-like passing and possession kept United pinned in its own half.

The visitor's goalkeeper, Chris Turner, replacing injured England international Gary Bailey, made fine saves from Ian Rush, Beglin and Ronnie Whelan.

Rush, Europe's top goalscorer two seasons ago and returning after missing two games through injury, had a chance to snatch victory for Liverpool 12 minutes from time, but volleyed wide from a good position.

## Prince Hassan visits Ministry of Youth

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was briefed Sunday by Minister of Youth Hisham Sharara on the results and recommendations of a general meeting concerning Jordanian sports activities held under the chairmanship of Prince Hassan on January 23. The Crown Prince Hassan outlined guidelines for implementing these recommendations, which will begin to positively affect the Jordanian sports and youth movements in the near future.

## French Kiss overcomes broken sail to win heat

FREMANTLE, Australia (AP) — The saucily named French Kiss overcame a ripped head sail Sunday to win the second heat of the World Championships in blustery conditions and rough Indian Ocean seas off Fremantle.

Skipped by former world champion Flying Dutchman sailor and Olympic silver medalist Marc Pajot, 32, French Kiss revelled in the 6-foot swells and 24-knot winds, which forced two boats to retire and several others to lose their headsails and break gear.

A jubilant Serge Crasnianski, head of Kris France, a film processing company which sponsored the yacht, leaped aboard from a tender after it crossed the line carrying with him bottles of iced champagne for the crew.

The New York Yacht Club's America II, sailed by John Kolius, three times world J 24 champion and silver medalist at the 1976 Olympics, seemed certain to beat French Kiss to the line on the spinnaker run to the last mark.

But with one leg to go its spinnaker wrapped round the forestay, slowing the boat and costing it the lead.

Speaking after the race, Pajot said on the third leg a clew on the forestail had broken and the three minutes it took to fix it let the American boat through.

Until then "we had got every tack and every jibe perfectly," he said. "It was new for French Kiss to race in such waves and such wind but one race is not the competition."

After sending a man aloft with a

knife to try and cut it free, America II dropped back and finally finished seventh.

Australia III, the new down under yacht that owner Alan Bond hopes will retain the America's Cup next year, finished second behind French Kiss and ahead of the New Zealand KZ5 which took the first heat Friday.

New Zealand KZ5, dubbed the "plastic fantastic" by its crew, is one of two identical boats entered by the New Zealander syndicate.

The two boats are the first 12s to be built in fiberglass and all potential challengers for the 1987 America's Cup are watching their performance closely.

Sailed by Chris Dickson, 24, the youngest skipper in the seven race series, New Zealand is the overall leader after the second heat.

Australia III and Australia II are placed second and third overall.

Skippers are able to discard the worst of their races in the Olympic style scoring system in which the boat with the lowest score wins.

The winner scores zero points, second three points, third 5.7 points, fourth eight points, fifth 10 points, sixth 11.7 points and subsequent place getters score their place plus six points.

Sunday's race was foretaste of conditions the 12 metres will experience in their elimination series for the America's Cup challenge round which starts in October.

Many of the yachts are using the world championships as a warmup for the America's Cup series.

## Australia captures WSC

MELBOURNE (R) — Australia scored a morale-boosting win over India Sunday to take the World Series Cup one-day cricket competition.

After a dismal summer of test matches, Australia outplayed the world one-day champions in the second final.

Set 188 to win after India had been dismissed for 187 off its 50 overs, Australia's batsmen, led by Allan Border, cruised to a

seven-wicket victory off 47.2 overs.

The win, before a crowd of more than 72,000 — a record for an Australia-India game in this country — wrapped up the best-of-three final series 2-0 following Australia's triumph in Sydney on Wednesday.

Australian all-rounder Greg Matthews was named Player of the Finals, winning \$2,000 Australian and a set of gold goblets.

## Argentina hamstrung by exiles

By Rex Cowar  
Reader

BUENOS AIRES — Argentina will not play any of soccer's "big boys" in their warm-up for the World Cup Finals without their "exiles."

Argentina's captain Diego Maradona is among several foreign-based players coach Carlos Bilardo says he needs to prepare a competitive squad for the Mexico Finals.

Bilardo has already begun training with home-based players but he is not prepared to risk demoralising results when he is without his best players.

"I have my people abroad," he told Reuters before a recent training session. "When I planned my (warm-up) fixtures I planned on the basis of the (Argentine) players in Italy."

"I could only reunite my full squad when the Italian national team had a match," he said. That was when he took the squad to Los Angeles and Puebla for two games against Mexico, he added.

Maradona was released from his club Napoli's league commitments for a weekend in November, as were midfielder Juan Barbas and striker Pedro Pasculli of Lecce.

Only top defender Daniel Passarella, skipper of Argentina's 1978 World Cup-winning side, who is currently at odds with Bilardo, was not made available by his club Fiorentina.

Maradona and Passarella had a key role in seeing Argentina through the qualifying rounds. Without them and other exiles like

Real Madrid striker Jorge Valdano, Bilardo's chances of guiding Argentina back to the top could be greatly reduced.

Five or six of the 22-man squad Bilardo will name on April 20, when league commitments are virtually exhausted, are with foreign teams.

"At the moment any of the (Argentine) players abroad have a chance of being picked," he said, hinting that there might be a place for World Cup veterans Ramon Diaz and Daniel Berton, who also play in Italy.

Bilardo has three friendly matches arranged in Europe towards the end of March — two against club sides, Napoli of Italy and Switzerland's grasshopper and the other against European champions France.

Italy have a friendly game on the same day as Argentina play France which means there will be no Italian league programme on the preceding Sunday, freeing the Argentines for international duty.

Significantly, Poland are in the middle of a short visit to Argentina at present, playing games against club sides Boca Juniors and River Plate.

But Bilardo made it clear that without his exiles he was not interested in taking the opportunity of playing the Poles.

Meanwhile, Bilardo has been concentrating on getting the bulk of the squad, the home-based players most likely to be called up, accustomed to Mexican conditions.

"I'm not concerned about the players' diet. The food will be

much the same as what we are used to here," Bilardo said.

Argentina's first round Group A matches against Bulgaria and South Korea are at 2,200 metres in Mexico City. They meet world champions Italy in Puebla at 2,000 metres.

The squad spent two weeks at 2,900 metres in the mountains of the north-western province of Jujuy during the end-of-year recess where team doctors assessed the players' reactions to the altitude.

The training sessions during the week in Buenos Aires include practice games at midday under the hot summer sun.

When he has the full squad in the latter half of April Bilardo will take them on a second tour, to the Middle East, where matches have been arranged against Iraq and Israel. A third game has yet to be confirmed.

From the Middle East they travel direct to Mexico, arriving on May 5 or 6, allowing almost a month to acclimatise.

Bilardo has come under heavy fire since the qualifying rounds from both fans and the press for poor performances.

The team was criticised for not having a style in keeping with the tradition of attacking football the fans expect from the national side, especially since the days of former coach Cesar Menotti's world champions.

The press has criticised the team strongly for having no recognisable style, but Bilardo argues that when he has all his players at his disposal the results will follow.

## Roma closes in on Juventus

ROME (R) — Polish midfielder Zbigniew Boniek kept Roma in pursuit of Italian league leaders Juventus Sunday, skillfully setting up his team's winning goal at Torino.

With Juventus held to a goalless draw by Atalanta, the Romans were able to move closer to the European champions and now lie four points behind with 10 games still to play.

Roma's 1-0 win was their first success at Torino since March 1981. The goal came in the 35th minute, Boniek beating several defenders before passing to centre-forward Roberto Pruzzo who headed home.

Torino had missed their chance to go ahead in the opening minute when a penalty by Brazilian Junior was saved by goalkeeper Franco,

Tancredi.

A similar fate awaited an 80th-minute penalty awarded to Roma for a foul on Boniek. Pruzzo took the spot kick and saw it saved by goalkeeper Renato Coparoni.

Napoli moved back into third place with a 1-0 home defeat of bottom-of-the-table Lecce, thanks to a 42nd-minute goal from Argentine Daniel Berton.

Fourth-placed Milan drew 2-2 at home to Sampdoria in a game which saw all the goal action in the first half.

Milan went ahead in the eighth minute through midfielder Agostino Di Bartolomei, who limped off injured in the second half.

Italian international Pietro Vierchow equalised for Sampdoria in the 13th minute but Milan went

2-1 up 15 minutes later when England's Ray Wilkins slammed home the rebound after Sampdoria goalkeeper Ivano Bordon had parried a shot. Centre-forward Roberto Mancini scored Sampdoria's second in the 39th minute.

Juventus goalkeeper Stefano Tacconi needed first aid after being hit on the head by an object thrown from the crowd when the referee turned down an Atalanta appeal for a penalty in the 70th minute for a foul on midfielder Roberto Donadoni. Tacconi was able to finish the game.

Struggling Udinese returned to form after five successive defeats to beat Avellino 3-1 in steadily falling snow. Brazil's Edinho scored Udinese's first goal from a pass by Peruvian Geronimo Barbado.

## Werder and Bayern triumph easily

BONN, West Germany (AP) — Werder Bremen defeated struggling Cologne 2-0 Saturday to retain a four-point lead over Bayern Munich in the West German first soccer division.

Bayern thrashed lowly Saarbrücken 5-1 to keep its second place on goal difference over Borussia Mönchengladbach, which came from behind to edge Hamburg 2-1 and stay in the title race.

The defeat left Hamburg in fifth place with 25 points, 10 behind Werder Bremen. Bayern and Mönchengladbach both have 31.

The leaders overcame a frozen pitch and light snowfall before 21,600 home fans to defeat Cologne. Cologne, with three members of West Germany's World Cup squad, continued its drop in the standings and fell to 14th place. It was an unhappy start for

Cologne's new manager Georg Kessler, who replaced Hannes Loehr at Midweek.

Werder took the lead in the 20th minute through Voeller's stand-in Frank Neubarth and made sure of the victory in the 78th with a goal from defender Thomas Schaaf.

Bayern fell behind after only 10 minutes before 8,500 fans at its Olympic Stadium, when Jean "Santos" Mustuhila, an international from Zaire, scored for Saarbrücken.

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### GERMAN LANGUAGE COURSE

The Goethe Institute announces the start of registration for a German language course which will start on Feb. 22, 1986.

Registration starts from 10-15 Feb. between 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and between 4:00-6:00 p.m. except on Thursday, Feb. 13, registration is in the morning only.

A special course for those wishing to take the exam of German as a foreign language.

For further information please call 641993

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Deluxe furnished ground floor apartment. Consisting of two bedrooms, large salon, dining room, kitchen, two bathrooms, glassed balcony, central heating, telephone and garden.

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BACK TO THE FUTURE (Colour)

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Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30



### Cinema Philadelpha

Tel: 634144 - 634149

PERFECT

(Colour)  
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:15

### Cinema RAGHADAN

Tel: 622198

GIRLS IN THE NAVY

(Colour)  
Performances: 12:00, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30

### Cinema OPERA

Abdoun, behind Alfa Office

THE SEDUCTION

(Colour)  
Performances: 6:30, 9:00, 11:00



Mohammad Al Khorafi was quoted Saturday as saying the fall in oil prices would sharply cut Kuwait's income.

## Latin American do

to the measure. "Our goal in this rather than arbitrary formulas,"

The settlement of the National Bank of Abu Dhabi for 12.5 million dirhams (\$3.3 million) was awarded by a Dubai court which ruled that the amount was to be paid in 16 instalments over four years.

Mohammad Al Khorafi was quoted Saturday as saying the fall in oil prices would sharply cut Kuwait's income.

The consequences for our economies," a senior Venezuelan official told Reuters.

**THE BETTER HALF** By H...

\_\_\_\_\_

YES, MAAM, I LEFT MY LUNCH BOX ON THE CURB BY THE BUS STOP...

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age is expected to increase from 1.1 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase from 200 million to 400 million. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion.

Panel 1: Flo is walking away from Chalkie, who is standing in a doorway.

Panel 2: Flo asks Chalkie, "DID FLO CHECK MY ALIBI WITH YOU, CHALKIE?" Chalkie replies, "YEP, SHE DID, AND I BACKED YOU UP."

Panel 3: Flo thanks Chalkie and asks, "THANKS, PAL! OH, BY THE WAY, COULD I HAVE A LOAN OF YOUR NEW ELECTRIC DRILL?" Chalkie replies, "...ER, GLADLY, ANDY - BUT IT'S ALREADY LENT."

Panel 4: Flo is walking away, saying, "THAT'S LIFE. GET IT TO TELLING FIBS AND IN NO TIME THEY'LL START TELLING FIBS FOR THEM."

**Yesterday's** | **Jumbles:** SHINY EPOCH GIGOLO NOUGAT.  
**Answer:** With that deadbeat, it's often a matter of this—TOUCH & GO.



# Kennedy: Soviets dropping SDI link for medium range arms pact

WASHINGTON (R) — Senator Edward Kennedy has said Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is dropping the condition that the United States abandon its "Star Wars" missile defence development for an agreement on medium range nuclear missiles.

At a news conference held on his return from Moscow talks, Sen. Kennedy also said that Mr. Gorbachev doubted the usefulness of further Soviet-U.S. summit meetings if arms control progress could not be guaranteed.

"The general secretary expressed the view that an agreement on Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) would justify the proposed next summit meeting," Sen. Kennedy said Saturday.

"Without specific progress in one of the areas of negotiation under way in Geneva, he expressed doubt as to whether a second summit would be justified or whether it should take place at all," Sen. Kennedy said.

He added that Mr. Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze emphasised there were no Soviet preconditions for achieving reduction in medium range nuclear missiles or agreeing to a nuclear test ban.

"Both the foreign minister and general secretary made it clear to me in emphatic and unmistakable terms that there are no preconditions for negotiating immediate reductions in Soviet and U.S. INF missiles," he said.

The Soviets had insisted the

United States drop its Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), the space-based missile research and development programme popularly known as "Star Wars."

"I pressed this point repeatedly in every way I could and was told there is no linkage whatsoever with the negotiations on strategic and space weapons," he said.

According to Sen. Kennedy, Mr. Gorbachev said that an agreement on medium range nuclear missiles was possible even if there were no progress in other arms control talks.

But Sen. Kennedy added that Moscow remained adamant that long range nuclear weapons reductions be tied to SDI.

"I sense no flexibility with regard to his position on the linkage on the ban of space weapons and any reductions in strategic offensive forces," Sen. Kennedy said.

The Massachusetts Democrat said he personally did not rule out the possibility of a summit this June, the second between President Reagan and the Soviet leader.

Sen. Kennedy met Mr. Gorbachev for over an hour, spending most of his time discussing human rights issues.



Edward Kennedy



Mikhail Gorbachev

He told reporters he had submitted to the Soviet authorities a list of 25 people who had been denied permission to leave the Soviet Union.

"Twenty-five individuals... have in the words of the Soviets been given favourable consideration consistent with Soviet laws and will soon be in the West," he said.

Sen. Kennedy added that six of the 25 had already left the Soviet Union.

"This process will continue and I have been given assurances at the highest levels that other individuals will be given positive consideration whenever possible under Soviet law," Sen. Kennedy said.

Dissident Soviet Nobel Prize-winner Andrei Sakharov, who has been in exile, was not on Sen. Kennedy's list. In Moscow, Mr. Gorbachev said again Saturday that Dr. Sakharov can not go abroad because he knows state secrets.

Sen. Kennedy declined to give further details about the human rights negotiations amid reports that Jewish dissident Anatoly Shcharansky is expected to be released in an East-West spy exchange on Tuesday.

The senator said, "I wish I could say that the general secretary's view on human rights was more flexible. I did not draw that conclusion."

## Moscow frees 3 jailed West German executives

FRANKFURT, West Germany (R) — The Soviet Union has sent home three West Germans it had held on bribery charges in a move West German officials say is apparently unrelated to a major East-West spy swap expected next week.

The three business executives, two men and a woman, arrived at Frankfurt Airport from Moscow Saturday night.

The West German embassy in the Soviet capital said their release appeared to have nothing to do with the proposed exchange.

The newspaper Welt Am Sonntag had earlier said the West Germans were set free as a "bonus" in the deal. It said the East-West swap would take place next Tuesday on the Glienicke Bridge linking West Berlin with East Germany.

East Germany has confirmed that the swap has been set for the beginning of next week but has not said where. The exchange is widely expected to involve the release of jailed Soviet dissident Anatoly Shcharansky.

The West Germans freed Saturday night were named by their embassy in Moscow as Monika Schanzbach, jailed for seven years last year for bringing Soviet officials, and Pavel Arsenov and

Bodo Luetke, who were awaiting trial on similar charges.

Diplomatic sources said they were arrested as part of a tough anti-corruption drive by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who has made clear that foreigners who bribe Soviet citizens can expect to face penalties.

The Foreign Ministry in Bonn welcomed their release.

"The West German government is pleased to have obtained the release of three detained businessmen after long and intensive efforts... the government welcomes this humanitarian gesture," a ministry spokesman said.

The Welt Am Sonntag report had made a clear link between the release of the three and the spy swap, saying, "The Soviets began the publicised prisoner exchange on Saturday."

The report said details of the swap had been finalised to include Shcharansky, four West Germans held in Soviet jails for spying, and five convicted or suspected East Bloc agents in West Germany and the United States.

## Peru enforces curfew against rebels

LIMA (R) — Peru's military Sunday enforced a nationwide state of emergency and a curfew in the capital as Maoist guerrillas vowed to step up their "great leap" offensive against the government.

President Alan Garcia put the armed forces in charge of enforcing the 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. ban under emergency measures announced on Friday aimed at curbing the spread of Sendero Luminoso (shining path) guerrillas from the Andes to Lima.

It was the first time since Peru returned to democracy in 1980 that the government was to impose a curfew in Lima, a city of five million people.

Mr. Garcia, swept to power in a landslide election six months ago, also suspended a wide range of constitutional rights in the state of emergency decreed on Friday night.

The government is now empowered to ban public assemblies

and travel to the provinces and abroad. Police and soldiers can raid private homes and arrest suspects without warrants.

But Sendero, in a communique issued in the Andean city of Ayacucho, declared it would climax a "great leap" offensive to bury Mr. Garcia's American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA) government.

"The great leap" is known as the most spectacular stage of Sendero's periodic campaigns, the latest of which is expected to culminate in March, security force sources said.

The current "great leap" appeared to have been heralded by the posting of Sendero's red hammer-and-sickle flags on three Ayacucho highways on Jan. 20, they said.

Since then, Sendero has killed one municipal official, two town governors and 14 Indian peasants

## Marcos supporters criticise foreign press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Foreign journalists, widely perceived as favouring the opposition, have been attacked by supporters of President Ferdinand Marcos as ignorant meddlers and "white monkeys."

This criticism has intensified following foreign media stories and television footage concerning allegations of widespread fraud during last Friday's presidential elections and alleged attempts at manipulating the ongoing vote count by the Marcos government.

Many foreign journalists among about 1,000 currently in the country have reported being harassed, roughed up and threatened by gun-wielding political thugs and officials. Although a few came under fire, none had been killed or seriously injured.

In their attacks, the critics often have been lumping the media with an official election observer team from the United States, describing both as "meddlers" in the internal affairs of the nation.

The co-leader of the American observer group, U.S. Senator Richard Lugar, on Saturday accused Mr. Marcos of manipulating the returns in his contesting with challenger Corason Aquino.

And while journalists from some 30 nations are here, the salvos have been targeted largely against the Americans.

"I hope that never again will we permit our country to be literally run, overrun and dictated to by foreign newsmen, many of whom are well behind the ears and have no concept of how an Asian people should be governed," wrote Teodoro F. Valencia, whose columns in pro-government newspapers for years have featured attacks on the Western press.

Valencia wrote that once close U.S.-Philippine relations would never be the same again, "not after the way the Americans humiliated us, threatened us."

Prior to the election, a columnist in the pro-Marcos Metro Manila Times described reporters as "two-bit, white-skinned, hire-suit, nasal-twang, AIDS-prone visitors."

The last reference was to the usually fatal Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

J.V. Cruz, a former diplomat, columnist and Malacanang Palace insider, has appeared on television frequently to stress that he disagreed with Mr. Marcos' decision to give the foreigners free access to the country and its political life.

Government officials, in fact, have argued that allowing a mini-army of Western media to roam the Philippines proved that democracy was alive and the government had nothing to hide during the polling.

## At least 30 killed in Canadian train collision

HINTON, Alberta (R) — At least 30 people were killed and scores injured when a passenger train collided head on with a freight train in the Alberta foothills near here in one of the worst train crashes in Canadian history.

The accident occurred when the westbound freight train ventured onto a single track from a double track, smashing head on into the eastbound nine-car passenger train, a spokesman for government-owned VIA Rail said.

It was not immediately clear whether human error or a faulty signal was to blame, he said.

One VIA Rail official, Cedric Jennings, said the accident killed between 30 and 40 people. "We cannot be more precise on this," Mr. Jennings said.

Witnesses at the scene said most of the passengers were killed when fire engulfed the front portion of the passenger train. All of the passenger cars left the track and dozens of freight cars were piled on top of them.

An estimated 80 people were injured, according to rescue officials at the scene.

Helicopters circled overhead, pouring water on the fire which made it impossible to remove the

dead.

VIA Rail officials said they had conflicting figures on the number of passengers on the train but it was more than 100.

Passenger Brian Belanger said the only people to escape were those able to smash windows.

"The dining car ended up getting split in half, like a sardine can, and some people were lucky to get out of there," he said.

The accident happened on a slight curve on the Canadian National main rail line but visibility was good at the time, officials said.

Smoke curled from the wreckage and piles of yellow sulphur from the freight train were scattered along the crash site.

All evidence indicated there were no dangerous chemicals on the freight train, VIA and Canadian National officials said.

Initial reports said that the freight train was carrying dangerous commodities at the rear.

Federal Transport Minister Don Mazankowski immediately ordered a full public inquiry into the accident.

In 1947 some 31 people died when two passenger trains collided head on in Manitoba in central Canada.

## Pope arrives in Bombay

BOMBAY (R) — Pope John Paul II left the southern Christian heartland of India and arrived Sunday in Bombay, the nation's commercial centre, on the last leg of his 10-day tour.

After a flight from Cochin on his next-to-last day in India, the Pope landed here and went immediately to a prayer service on the impoverished island suburb of Vasai, a collection of predominantly Catholic fishing villages.

The Pope's programme also included visits to Mount Mary Basilica, founded by Jesuits in 1573. Holy Name Cathedral and an open-air mass in Shivaji Park surrounded by the city's skyscrapers and slums.

The religious highlight of the Pope's tour came Saturday when the Pontiff beatified an Indian-born priest and nun, setting them on the way to sainthood in an

open-air ceremony in southern Kerala state where 35 per cent of India's 12 million Catholics live.

Saturday's beatification mass at Kottayam, just south of the old Arabian Sea port city of Cochin where the Pope stayed in Kerala, bestowed the title of "Blessed" on Father Kourianos Elias Chavara and Sister Alphonsa.

The Pope later visited the Kerala state capital of Thiruvananthapuram and at a twilight prayer service on a beach he called for greater social justice in what has become one of the themes of his visit to India, where hundreds of millions of people live in poverty.

The Pontiff has also appealed for collaboration among religions several times on the tour of predominantly Hindu India, telling religious leaders to drop their differences and fight evils like social inequality and nuclear weapons.

## Sihanouk to enter hospital

PEKING (R) — Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of the anti-Vietnamese Kampuchean guerrilla coalition, has cancelled plans to visit Thailand in March so he can enter hospital for treatment of ailments including eye trouble.

A Sihanouk aide told Reuters the prince now planned to visit Thailand and the coalition-controlled zone of Kampuchea in August.

Prince Sihanouk, 62, lives in Peking for most of the year as a guest of the Chinese government. The main supporter of the coalition. He has had a busy schedule lately including a tour of southern China.

"My journey was scheduled for March but I have health problems which require my admission to the Peking hospital after the traditional Chinese New Year," the prince said in a reply given to Reuters by his aide.

"My doctor hopes an eye operation can be avoided; but furthermore I have other health problems," Prince Sihanouk said.

Prince Sihanouk is president of the tripartite guerrilla coalition dominated by the pro-Peking Khmer Rouge faction which ruled Kampuchea for nearly four years in the late 1970s until it was overthrown by Vietnamese troops in early 1979.

The coalition forces control a few areas of Kampuchea along the Thai-Kampuchean border, and the prince makes occasional trips to the "free zone."

His statement said he would accept the credentials of an ambassador for a friendly power during his scheduled August trip and would fly with the other coalition leaders, Son Sann and Khieu Samphan, from Bangkok to Peking for an annual state visit on Sept. 6.

The three coalition leaders last met in Peking in December.

## Foreign residents, wealthy Haitians flee their homes

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Foreign residents of Port-Au-Prince and wealthy Haitians began abandoning their homes for hotels after a night of heavy gunfire in the capital in which at least 100 people died and 300 were wounded.

Hundreds of wealthy Haitians fled the country during the popular revolt against President Jean-Claude Duvalier over the last two weeks before he went into exile on Friday, but with the airport closed since then, many Haitians apparently decided to opt for moving into hotels.

They apparently feared reprisals by the impoverished masses after 28 years of dictatorial rule in which Duvalier himself became one of the wealthiest men in the world and a minority of Haitians cashed in with him.

Most of Friday's deaths went unexplained since a 16-hour curfew, a rare sight in the fast-industrialising country, and enjoyed time-honoured games in the streets of the capital.

The government last year bowed to public pressure and made the Lunar New Year a permanent public holiday after previously saying its observance was a waste of time and money.

The ruling Democratic Justice Party said President Chun Doo Hwan marked the festival Sunday by giving presents to 485 centenarians, one of them a woman claiming to be 135.

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The three coalition leaders last met in Peking in December.

## 8 year run of Evita ends in London

LONDON (R) — The British musical hit Evita, which earned millions of dollars in box office receipts, has ended its eight-year run in London. The Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber show was performed 2,913 times on the stage of London's Prince Edward Theatre. The show, based on the life of the wife of former Argentine President Juan Peron, remained popular even at the height of the 1982 Falklands war between Britain and Argentina. The musical, which featured the hit song "don't cry for me Argentina," earned £23 million (\$32 million). Evita is being moved to the northern English city of Manchester. The Prince Edward Theatre was filled Saturday night, with some fans paying £100 (\$140) for a seat.

Man executed for selling girls, children

PEKING (R) — A man in central China has been executed for kidnapping and selling 18 women and children over the past four years for a profit of 17,000 yuan (\$5,300), a local official newspaper reported. The Xian City Evening News said a woman accomplice of Zhang Longren, 25, received a suspended death sentence. It said Zhang found his victims in railway stations, but did not say who they were sold to.

Peking burns imported clothes to stop AIDS

PEKING (R) — Peking authorities have burned two tonnes of imported second-hand clothing under recently introduced regulations aimed at stopping AIDS and other infectious diseases from gaining a foothold here. As soiled T-shirts and shorts went up in smoke, a local official told Reuters a number of people who had handled them had contracted scabies, ulcers or serious swellings. "To date, we have not found any cases of AIDS, but we are afraid that people who have worn these garments could possibly have caught it," said Chen Mingchu, head of the Hygiene Bureau. "AIDS is difficult to diagnose and suffers from no symptoms for many months." Another official said it was not yet known which country the clothes had come from or who had imported them, but added: "The law takes a very stern view of this filthy profiteering and we encourage informers."

'AIDS housemates face little risk'

BOSTON (R) — The killer disease AIDS is not transmitted through such casual household contacts as hugging, sharing eating utensils, towels or even toothbrushes with a victim, according to a recent report. The research reported in the New England Journal of Medicine was based on a study of 39 people with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and 100 people living in the same home with them. It said housemates who do not have sex with AIDS victims run "little or no risk" of coming down with the disease. The study was undertaken by three New York hospitals and the Federal Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta to alleviate public fears — bordering at times on hysteria — that AIDS can be caught by close non-sexual contacts, including touching the tears or saliva of an infected person.

Mardi Gras kicks off in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Mardi Gras season kicked into high gear this weekend with its flow of parades, people and liquor; as merchants hope to rake in tourist cash and police prepared to collar revelers who party too heartily. "I'm going to be partying like crazy like everyone else," said Geoffrey Warner, a 27-year-old toolmaker who came from Adelaide, Australia, for what he hopes will be the wildest few days of his life. Warner is among more than a million people expected to jam the streets of New Orleans and its suburbs for the world's biggest block party Tuesday, the day that gives its name to French — Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday — the whole kit and caboodle. Carnival season officially began Jan. 6, but the festivities — including the first days before the solemn Lenten season don't really get rolling until about 10 days before Mardi Gras. This year, Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, falls on Feb. 17.

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF  
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### FIRST THINGS FIRST

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ K J 4

♥ 8 6 4 2

♦ 7 6 4 2

♣ A 6

WEST

♠ 10 9 5 3 2

♥ K 9

♦ Q J 3

♣ 7 4 3

EAST

♠ 6

♥ Q J 10 7

♦ K 10 9 8 5

♣ J 9 8

SOUTH

♠ A Q 8 7

♥ A 5 3

♦ A

♣ K Q 10 5 2

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass

2 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠.

The order in which you elect to do things at the bridge table can have a tremendous bearing on the result. Look what happened on this hand from the Caribbean Team Championship.

When declarer elected to play four spades he knew he was choosing a 4-3 fit. As the cards lie, three no trump is the laydown contract even if the clubs don't run. Note South's bid of two hearts; that couldn't be a genuine suit, since if he had held four hearts and four spades, he would have rebid one

heart.

West led the queen of diamonds, and declarer devised a reasonable plan that depended only on finding no worse than a 4-2 break in either black suit. He won the ace of diamonds, cashed the ace-king of clubs and ruffed a club high. Now he took dummy's remaining spade honor and led a trump to the queen. Had both defenders followed, declarer would have cashed his remaining high trump and then started to run clubs. The defenders would eventually get two heart tricks and a trump.

Unfortunately, East showed out on the second trump. Now declarer had to lose two trump tricks and two hearts.

Declarer went about his business in the wrong order. It costs him nothing to draw two rounds of trumps first, leaving a high trump in dummy. If both defenders follow, declarer proceeds to ruff a club and then he has only three losers. However, when East shows out on the second trump declarer needs either a 3-3 club break or else to find East with a doubleton jack of clubs. He abandons trumps and starts to run clubs. When West ruffs, declarer overruffs in dummy, comes to hand with the ace of hearts and continues with his last club. That limits his losers to the same three he would have if trumps had behaved more kindly.

## FACSIMILE MACHINES



The Telecommunications Corporation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan announces that the following facsimile machines are approved for use in the public telephone network:-

Type	Group	Manufacturer
FAX 710	3	Canon Corporation
DATAFAX 2000 C	2	Data East Corporation
DATAFAX 2000 D	2	
NEFAX - 11	3	NEC Corporation
NEFAX - 17	3	
OF	3	
OKIFAX 5500	2	OKI Electric Industry Co.
FX 120	3	Ricoh Company
SANFAX 625	3	Sanyo Electric Trading Co.
FO 2715	3	Sharp Corporation
COPIX 8350	3	Toshiba Corporation

The public is advised as follows:

Group 2 Machines transmit and receive an A4 sized original in approximately three minutes.

The machines are able to transmit and receive shades of gray so that photographs may be transmitted as black and white pictures with gray shades reproduced.

Group 3 Machines transmit and receive an A4 sized original in less than 90 seconds, the actual time depending on the nature of the original.

The machines generally are not designed to transmit and receive shades of gray so that photographs cannot necessarily be transmitted. Some Group 3 machines incorporate facilities so that pictures can be exchanged between similar machines both incorporating those facilities.

N.B. 1) The above models of facsim